

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

ETHICAL THEORY & ITS BUSINESS APPLICATIONS
PHIL 2420

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Revised: Spring 2011

Catalog Course Description:

An introduction to moral philosophy and a consideration of moral issues related to business, including corporate responsibility, employee rights, discrimination, investment, and advertising.

Entry Level Standards:

Students must be able to read and write at a college level and must also be responsible enough to prepare for and attend class regularly. A previous or concurrent course in basic economics, though not required, is recommended.

Prerequisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Beauchamp, Tom L., Bowie, Norman E., and Arnold, Denis G., *Ethical Theory and Business*, 8th ed. (2008). Pearson Prentice Hall (ISBN 978-0-13-612602-7)

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Ethical Theory and Business Practice: Fundamental Concepts and Problems
2	Ethical Theory and Business Practice: Normative Ethical Theory
3	Ethical Theory and Business Practice: Analysis of Cases
4	The Purpose of the Corporation
5	Corporate Character and Individual Responsibility
6	Acceptable Risk: Consumers and investors
7	Acceptable Risk: workers
8	Acceptable Risk: The Environment
9	Ethical Treatment of Employees
10	Diversity and Discrimination in the Workplace

- 11 Marketing and the Disclosure of Information
- 12 Ethical Issues in Information Technology
- 13 Ethical Issues in International Business
- 14 Social and Economic Justice
- 15 Final Exam

II. Course Goals*:

The course will:

- A. Better understand and appreciate questions of central importance to the Western philosophical tradition. I.7, II.1, II.4, II.6, III.2
- B. Better understand and appreciate sophisticated ethical principles and beliefs, especially as they apply to the conduct of business. I.7, II.1, II.4, II.6, III.2
- C. Evaluate morally problematic business scenarios and develop morally sound responses to such scenarios I.7, II.1, II.4, II.6, III.2
- D. Improve the ability to engage in respectful and well-reasoned discussion. I.7, II.1, II.4, II.6, III.2
- E. Fairly interpret and assess diverse arguments and beliefs. I.7, II.1, II.4, II.6, III.2
- F. Significantly improve critical thinking and writing skills. I.2, I.5, I.7, II.6

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference the university parallel program General Education Goals.

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

Student will be able to:

- 1. Sketch the central features of the most widely studied moral theories. A, E, F
- 2. Explain the role of argumentation in philosophy/moral philosophy. A, B, D, E, F
- 3. Evaluate the most widely studied moral theories. A, D, E, F
- 4. Discuss the nature and meaning of work in terms of human nature and human needs. A, B, C, D, E, F
- 5. Explain the two major theories of corporate responsibility. A, B, C, D, E, F
- 6. Discuss specific employee rights, including the right to work, and the moral foundation underlying them. A, B, C, D, E, F
- 7. Discuss employee obligations and the moral foundation underlying them. A, B, C, D, E, F
- 8. Discuss the possible approaches to handling responsibility for unsafe or defective products. A, B, C, D, E, F
- 9. Discuss moral arguments for and against the strict products liability doctrine. A, B, C, D,

E, F

10. Discuss moral issues/problems related to advertising and target marketing. A, B, C, D, E, F
11. Give/evaluate arguments for and against preferential treatment. A, B, C, D, E, F
12. Discuss the moral standing of environmental entities. A, B, C, D, E, F
13. Discuss the moral issues raised by international business and globalization. A, B, C, D, E, F

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

The grade will be based upon short-answer examinations, critical journal/essays, and participation in classroom discussions. The journal/essays must total at least 5000 words.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

N/A

C. Field Work:

N/A

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

N/A

E. Grading Scale:

100-90 = A
89-85 = B+
84-80 = B
79-75 = C+
74-70 = C
69-60 = D
59-00 = F

V. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>.