# Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Business Ethics  
**Department:** Business & Technology  
**Curriculum:** Business Administration  
**Date submitted:** Spring 2014 (AAC: 14-26)

## Course Code: BBG*240

### Course Type: L/D

- A: Clinical  
- B: Lab  
- D: Distance Learning  
- I: Individual/Independent  
- L: Lecture  
- N: Seminar  
- Internship  
- P: Practicum  
- U: Studio  
- X: Combined Lecture/Lab  
- Y: Combined Lecture/Clinical/Lab  
- Z: Combined Lecture/Studio

### Elective Type: G

- E: English  
- FA: Fine Arts  
- HI: History  
- HU: Humanities  
- LAS: Liberal Arts & Sciences  
- FL: Foreign Language  
- M: Math  
- S: Science  
- SS: Social Science  
- G: General

### Contact Hours:

- **Lecture:** 3  
- **Clinical:** 0  
- **Lab:** 0  
- **Studio:** 0  
- **Other:** 0  
- **TOTAL:** 3

### Class Maximum: 35  
**Semesters Offered:** F/S

### Credit Hours: 3  
**Developmental:** No

### Prerequisites:

Composition (ENG*101) or permission of Department Chair

### Corequisites:

None

### Other Requirements:

None

### Catalog Course Description:

A critical examination (both practical and theoretical) of contemporary moral problems in business such as employee rights and responsibilities, pay equity and comparable worth, whistleblowing, trade secrets and confidentiality, conflict of interest, discrimination and sexual harassment, pollution, consumer protection, professional ethics, truth-telling in business dealings, social responsibility of business, and fiduciary responsibility to stockholders and stakeholders. It is recommended that students take at least six (6) credits in Business, Economics, Philosophy, or English prior to taking this course.

### Topical Outline:

**A. ETHICS IN BUSINESS, ETHICAL THEORY, LOGIC & ARGUMENT**

1. Introduction: importance of ethics to business and the economy; case study analysis
2. Definition of ethics: ethics v. etiquette, law, prudence; business ethics, political ethics, & professional ethics
3. Logic and argument: argument v. dispute; premises, conclusions, inferences; validity, soundness
4. General issues in ethical theory: universality v. ethical relativism; ethical and
psychological egoism

5. Ethical theory: utilitarianism (Mill, Bentham); deontology (Kant; contractarians); ethics of virtue (Aristotle, Confucius)

6. Theories of Justice: property, profit and economic justice; morality of economic systems

B. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF BUSINESS / ETHICAL PROBLEMS IN BUSINESS

7. Corporate v. individual responsibility; corporation as a moral agent; positive v. negative duties and philanthropy

8. Stakeholder theory

9. Regulation & accountability of business: self-regulation, market regulation, government regulation

10. Risk: product safety, workplace safety, investor risk; environmental safety

11. Truth telling: advertising, disclosure; conflict of interest

12. Employee rights and responsibilities; at-will employee; whistleblowing; trade secrets; right to work; privacy

13. Discrimination: sexual harassment; pay equity & comparable worth

14. Information technology: intellectual property; confidentiality & privacy

15. International business and the multinational corporation

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

COURSE:
1. describe, compare and apply major tenets of various ethical philosophies through business problems

2. identify, evaluate and analyze ethical arguments in business

3. formulate and justify ethical judgments in a business environment

PROGRAM: (Numbering reflects Program Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)

Business Administration Program

1. successfully complete the business administration core courses and demonstrate competencies necessary for success in business administration including an understanding of:

   a) the ethical and legal implications of managerial decisions and the effect of those decisions on organizational stakeholders

2. demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and apply learned skills for real-world business decision making

3. demonstrate proficiency in the General Education Abilities as they apply to the business professions

GENERAL EDUCATION: (Numbering reflects General Education Outcomes as they appear in the college catalog)

2. Critical Analysis/ Logical Thinking - Students will be able to organize, interpret, and evaluate evidence and ideas within and across disciplines; draw reasoned inferences and defensible conclusions; and solve problems and make decisions based on analytical processes.

   Demonstrates: Identifies the issue(s); formulates an argument; explains and analyzes relationships clearly; draws reasonable inferences and conclusions that are logical and defensible; provides support by evaluating credible sources of evidence necessary to justify conclusions.

   Does Not Demonstrate: Identifies few or no issues; formulates an argument without significant focus; provides an unclear explanation of analysis and relationships; drawing few reasonable
inferences and conclusions that are illogical and indefensible; provides little to no support using credible sources of evidence necessary to justify conclusions.

3. **Ethical Dimensions (embedded)** - Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social and political problems.

   **Demonstrates:** Identifies and reflects critically on ethical issues presented in classroom instruction or in assigned co-curricular or civic activities and/or professional internships and practica.

   **Does Not Demonstrate:** Does not sufficiently identify or reflect critically on ethical issues presented in classroom instruction or in assigned co-curricular or civic activities and/or professional internships and practica.

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**Evaluation:**
List how the above outcomes will be assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment will be based on the following criteria:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. class presentations</td>
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<td>3. case study analyses</td>
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**Instructional Resources:**
List library (e.g. books, journals, on-line resources), technological (e.g. Smartboard, software), and other resources (e.g. equipment, supplies, facilities) required and desired to teach this course.

**Required:** On-line reading materials, assignments, and lecture outlines and notes. TV/VCR

**Desired:** None

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**Textbook(s)**
Refer to current academic year printout

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