

The University of Jordan

Faculty: Faculty of Business
Semester: First Semester

Department: Business Management
Academic Year: 2013-2014

Business Ethics and Social Responsibility (1601433)

Credit hours		Level		Prerequisite	
Coordinator/ Lecturer	Dr Taghrid Saleh Suifan	Office number		Office phone	24257
Course website		E-mail	t.suifan@ju.edu.jo	Place	Building Number 4/ Second Floor

Office hours					
Day/Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	12:00–01:00	1:00 –2:00	12:00–01:00	3:30 – 4:30	12:00–01:00

Course Description

This course introduces contemporary and controversial ethical issues facing the business community. Topics include moral reasoning, moral dilemmas, law and morality, equity, justice and fairness, ethical standards, and moral development. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of their moral responsibilities and obligations as members of the workforce and society.

Learning Objectives

The main objectives of this course are:

1. To improve the students' ability to make ethical decisions in business by providing them with a framework that they can use to identify, analyze and resolve ethical issues in business decision making.
2. To teach students how to cope with conflicts between personal values and those of the organization.
3. To help students understand and use their current values and convictions in making business decisions.
4. To encourage students to think about the effects of their decisions on business and society.
5. To improve ethical decision making by identifying ethical issues and recognize the approaches available to resolve them.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

Successful completion of the course should lead to the following outcomes:

A. Knowledge and Understanding: Students are expected to

- Define business ethics and describe the evolution of business ethics.
- Describe major ethical perspectives.
- Understand and apply an ethical decision-making framework.
- Understand social responsibility from several dimensions.
- Understand how the organization influences ethical decision-making.
- Examine how significant others influence ethical decision-making.
- Develop an effective ethics program.

B. Intellectual Analytical and Cognitive Skills: Students are expected to

- Increase their ability to think analytically, systematically, and critically about various aspects of business ethics.
- Be trained to apply ethical practices in everyday business activities. This could be achieved by enhancing their views of themselves as leaders and increasing their sensitivity to ethical challenges at work.
- Gain extensive knowledge of ethical theory through the study of course contents.

C. Subject- Specific Skills: Students are expected to

- Raise their general awareness of ethical dilemmas at work
- Place ethical issues within a management context subject to analysis and decision-making action

- Enhance and improve their ability to reason toward a satisfactory resolution of an ethical dilemma.

D. Transferable Key Skills: Students are expected to

- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of their moral responsibilities and obligations as members of the workforce and society

ILOs: Learning and Evaluation Methods

ILO/s	Learning Methods	Evaluation Methods
	Lectures and discussions. Assignments Project presentation	Midterm Exam (%30) Assignments + Project + Short Exam (%20) Final Exam (%50)

Course Contents

Content	Reference	Week	ILO/s
The Importance of Business Ethics	Required Test	Week 1+2	To explore conceptualizations of business ethics from an organizational perspective
Stakeholder Relationships, Social Responsibility, and Corporate Governance	Required Test	Week 3	* To identify stakeholders' roles in business ethics. * to define social responsibility and examine the relationship between stakeholder orientation and social responsibility
Emerging Business Ethics Issues	Required Test	Week 4+5	To examine the challenge of determining an ethical issue in business
The Institutionalization of Business Ethics	Required Test	Week 7+8	To distinguish between the voluntary and mandated boundaries of ethical conduct
Ethical Decision Making and Ethical Leadership	Required Test	Week 9+10	To provide a comprehensive framework for ethical decision making in business
Individual Factors: Moral Philosophies and Values	Required Test	Week 11+12	To understand how moral philosophies and values influence individual and group ethical decision making in business
Organizational Factors: The Role of Ethical Culture and Relationships	Required Test	Week 13+14	To examine the influence of corporate culture on business ethics

Developing an Effective Ethics program	Required Test	Week 15+16	To understand why businesses need to develop ethics programs
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Learning Methodology

Don't be surprised if you find that in many real situations, there is no single 'right' or 'wrong' answer. Moreover, your instructor will not expect you just to sit quietly in the class but expect you to contribute by asking or answering questions, sharing your experiences and observations, etc.

For this course, you will have three contact hours of class per week distributed over 16 weeks. Instructor will use a variety of ways to help you acquire the fundamental concepts and knowledge. During class, you are expected to practice the knowledge acquired through lectures and develop the relevant skills. Your instructor will be available to help you evaluate your learning progress, identify areas for further development. You will need to be proactive in identifying the issues you would like to consult your instructor with and therefore your self-awareness and self-motivation will be key to the effectiveness of this part of learning.

Apart from the three hours' class contact time, you are expected to spend at least six hours on what we call Independent Learning. During this time, you are in charge. Your instructor may or may not give you any specific tasks but would expect you to use the time productively. You spend the time going over the concepts you find difficult to grasp in class or practice some of the skills you have learnt. You can do some by yourself or by teaming up with some of your fellow classmates.

Projects and Assignments

Students can choose one of the options below:

- Option 1. Students will conduct an independent research about an ethical or unethical case in the private or the public sector. They are required to write a 3-5 (A4 pages) report and prepare a presentation. Study cases should be first approved by the professor.
- Option 2. This live case assignment requires you to choose from a list of companies who are viewed by the press, public or courts to have undertaken unethical or illegal activities. After selecting a company, you will conduct an independent research to write a report and prepare a presentation.

Academic Honesty

All assignments and work submitted by the students should be their own. Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with strictly according to the university regulations.

Evaluation

Evaluation	Point %	Date
Midterm Exam	30%	Will be assigned by the professor during the semester in class
Second Exam (Field Project)	10%	Will be assigned by the professor during the semester in class
Participation and other activities (quizzes, homework)	10%	Will be assigned by the professor during the semester in class
Final Exam	50%	Will be assigned by the professor during the semester in class

Main Reference/s:

Freadrich, Ferrell, Ferrell (2010), Ethical Decision Making for Business, International Edition / 8 Ed. South-Western, Cengage Learning.

References:

In addition to the main course textbook, there are many websites with supplemental information topics on business ethics which are timely because of the focus on the recent scandals noted in domestic and global business. Here are just a few web sites to review for additional information:

<http://onlineethics.org/topics/business.html>

<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/articles/articles.cfm?fam=BUSI>

Intended Grading Scale (Optional)

0-39	F
45-49	D⁻
50-54	D
54-69	D⁺
60-64	C⁻
65-69	C
70-73	C⁺
74-76	B⁻
77-80	B
81-84	B⁺
85-89	A⁻
90-100	A

Notes:

- Concerns or complaints should be expressed in the first instance to the module lecturer; if no resolution is forthcoming, then the issue should be brought to the attention of the module coordinator (for multiple sections) who will take the concerns to the module representative meeting. Thereafter, problems are dealt with by the Department Chair and if still unresolved the Dean and then ultimately the Vice President. For final complaints, there will be a committee to review grading the final exam.
- For more details on University regulations please visit:
<http://www.ju.edu.jo/rules/index.htm>