This doctoral seminar aims to provide you with a theoretical foundation to understand ethical issues in business life and to make a contribution to the field of business ethics. This course focuses on central questions in the ethical analysis of business as pursued in the field of business ethics. The seminar examines theories specific to the field of business ethics, as well as empirical research on ethical norms and behaviors. The seminar also examines questions that arise in specific areas of business, including global business and corporate social responsibility.

The seminar is designed with an emphasis on helping students to complete a research paper building on course readings. Students are expected to present their research in the seminar. Adjustments in the topics to be covered can be made in order to accommodate student interests.

**Grading**

- 50% Ideas papers and in-class presentations
- 50% Term paper

**Ideas papers and in-class presentations**

Each student will be responsible for writing 4 short (1-2 page double-spaced) ideas papers related to the readings for the class sessions on January 30, February 13, March 26, and April 2. The ideas papers are due by Sunday at 5 p.m. and should be posted to CANVAS.

An ideas paper identifies one research idea related to the topic of the readings for a particular class session. The ideas paper should include a research question, suggested methodology to address that question, and a plan for executing a study to investigate the question. Papers will be graded on the originality and feasibility of the research idea, the appropriateness of the methodology chosen, and connections to relevant research literature.

In addition, each student will be responsible for leading an introduction of the readings for one class session. The introduction should provide a critical assessment of the readings and direct the class to the important questions for discussion. The presentation
should last 15-20 minutes and include a handout for the class. A sign-up sheet will be used to determine the day on which each student will lead the class discussion.

Finally, each student will be responsible for selecting a current article (published within the last 1-2 years) relating to our course. The article should be one that the student finds especially compelling and useful to the field of business ethics. The student who has selected it will present it to the class. Again, a sign-up sheet will be used to determine which day you will present.

**Term Paper**

A final term paper will count for 50% of your grade. It will consist of your original research on a topic of your choice and as much as possible build on the readings covered in class. I will happily read drafts of your papers, give comments, talk about possible topics, and otherwise help you in the writing process.

Your first assignment is to identify a research problem, its related questions, and the appropriate journals and other relevant resources that will aid in your review of the literature. (3 pages maximum due on February 27)

Your second assignment is to write a paper outlining your research problem, contextualizing and justifying it in the extant literature and where appropriate identifying salient variables and hypotheses. (7 pages maximum due on March 19)

These first two assignments should be posted on CANVAS by 5:00 p.m. the Sunday before the class session. You are expected to read your classmates’ contributions so that we can devote part of our class session to providing peer feedback.

You will also be required to prepare a presentation of your proposed research. (Due on April 9)

Finally, you will hand in a term paper that incorporates feedback from your classmates and the professor. (20 pages maximum due April 23)

**Course Materials**

Materials will be posted on CANVAS.
January 23, 2012
Introduction to the Field of Business Ethics

Stanford Encyclopedia's entry on business ethics, by Alexei Marcoux, (http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-business/)


January 30, 2012 (will need to be rescheduled)
Empirical Approaches to Business Ethics


Optional:

February 6
Social Justice and Utility
Guest Speaker: Professor Waheed Hussain


February 13 (will need to be rescheduled)

Experiments in Ethics


Optional:


February 20

Normative Ethics and Political Philosophy

Guest Speaker: Professor Nien-hê Hsieh


February 27

Efficiency and Corporate Governance

Guest Speaker: Professor Tom Donaldson


March 5  Spring break

March 12  
Business and Public Policy  
Guest speaker: Professor Jorge Rivera, George Washington University

March 19  Stakeholder Theory and Integrative Social Contracts Theory (ISCT)


March 26  Cognitive Neuroscience and Ethics


April 2
Corporate Social Responsibility


April 9 (will need to be rescheduled)
Student presentations of drafts of research papers

April 16
The Corporation as Moral Agent
Guest speaker: Professor Amy Sepinwall


April 23
International Business Ethics

