

LGST 820/220
International Business Ethics
Fall 2014

Dr. Matthew Lister	Monday and Wednesday
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Office Hours: Monday, 12:15-1:15, Tuesday 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

Course Description: This class is devoted to examining and understanding the particular moral or ethical questions that arise for business in the international or global realm. We will consider both how moral traditional business ethics problems are complicated or changed when we are operating in the international realm and will look at several issues that are more clearly distinctive to international business. We will give special attention to how the differences between domestic and international law and regulation lead to difficult moral choices for business leaders.

Most of the topics covered in this course provide difficult problems without clear answers. Our goal, then, will not be to learn the one “right thing to do”, but to improve our abilities to engage in moral reasoning about the type of problems that arise in international business. To that end, students should come to class having done all of the assigned reading and prepared to engage with the readings and their fellow students in an open and respectful discussion.

This course will presume a very minimal familiarity with moral theory or ethics- having taken any version of LGST 210, a philosophy (or similar) course that covered ethics, or having read any moral philosophy or ethics on your own will be more than enough. Students who have not done any of these things are still very welcome to take the class, but might ask for some brief background readings to help fill gaps if they wish. While we will talk about international law and regulation to a fairly large degree there is no presumption that you know anything about these topics- everything you will be expected to know will be covered in class.

Course Materials: There is one assigned text for this class, *Can We Put an End to Sweatshops?: A New Democracy Forum on Raising Global Labor Standards*, by Fung, O’rourke and Sabel, available at the Penn Book Center, on the corner of 34th and Sansom (Not the Penn Book Store on 36th and Chestnut.) All other readings will be posted to the course Canvas page or otherwise distributed.

Grading: The final grade for this course will be based on four components:

General class participation	(10%)
Mid-term exam	(20%)
Debate	(30%)
Final Paper	(40%)

Class participation consists in attending class and being ready to discuss and apply the assigned readings. The readings will often be used as a jumping-off point for discussion, so you should be thinking about how to apply them to contemporary issues in international business while you read them.

Mid-Term exam: This exam, given during a regular class period, will consist of multiple choice and short answer (no more than one paragraph) questions.

Group Debate: Teams will be decided on early in the semester, with the size of teams being determined by the size of the class. There will be four debates, each on one topic with one team on each side. Unlike traditional debate, where the goal is to use rhetorical devices to persuade an audience regardless of the value or veracity of the underlying claims, the goal in this debate will be to present strongest arguments that you can for the assigned position, to anticipate the counter-arguments, and answer them as best as possible. The goal is not to improve your rhetorical skills, but to give you the opportunity to work in a group, thinking about difficult moral issues that do not have obvious answers. Topics will be assigned by lottery. Possible topics include the following: 1) Multinational corporations have an obligation to promote development in the countries in which they operate. 2) The same labor and environmental standards should apply in all countries. 3) Countries that do not live up to our principles of justice are better reformed by direct interaction, including economic interaction, than by sanctions, other forms of outside coercion, or by withholding benefits that come from international economic cooperation. 4) States should structure their economic regulations so as to primarily benefit their own citizens.

Grading for the debate will be based on your ability to clearly present a side and respond to objections and questions. Voting by the class on the best presentation will make up a portion of the grade. There will be internal checks on teams to make sure everyone has participated.

Final Paper: This paper will be due on the assigned day for the final exam for the class. I will provide a list of possible topics, but will also approve individually decided on acceptable topics. The final length of the paper is TBD, but will in any case be less than 15 pages.

Some other Policies: None of the questions we will consider in this class have fully obvious or easy answers. A variety of views are reasonable and worthy of consideration. Therefore, it is necessary to treat the views of your classmates with respect. This will lead to a happier and more fruitful learning environment for everyone. Rude or disrespectful behavior will not be accepted. (This applies, of course, to racists or sexist statements, but not only to these. Please use common sense and courtesy.) Additionally, it is important that everyone get the chance to take part in discussion, so please try to not monopolize discussion. There is often as much to learn by listening as by talking

Please do not use phones or text or email during class. It is very distracting and annoying to others. If you have a legitimate reason why you might need to receive a message during class, please let me know beforehand.

Academic Honesty: All of the normal rules about academic honesty apply. If you have any doubts about whether something meets these rules, please check. The normal penalties, none of which are pleasant, will apply in cases of academic dishonesty.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments (note that this is a tentative schedule, subject to change with appropriate notice!)

Week 1: Aug. 27 Introduction: What is *international* business ethics? (no readings)

Week 2: Sept. 1 Labor Day- no class

Sept. 3. Introduction to international law: Hathaway and Koh, *Foundations of International Law*, pp. 1-19; Armstrong, Farrell, and Lambert, *International Law and International Relations*, pp. 9-31.

Week 3: Sept.8 Global Justice: Strong Cosmopolitanism: Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality", *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol. 1 (Spring 1972), pp. 229-43

Sept. 10 Global Justice: Realism: Jack Donnelly, "Twentieth-Century Realism"

Week 4: Sept. 15 Global Justice: David Miller, "Social Justice *versus* Global Justice?" (Highly recommended, but not required, Michael Blake, "We Are All Cosmopolitans Now". (Course selection period ends)

Sept. 17 Moral Relativism- some varieties. (Readings TBA)

Week 5: Sept. 22 Human Rights: Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Erin Kelly, "Human Rights as Foreign Policy Imperatives".

Sept. 24 Karin Lucke, "States' and Private Actors' Obligations under International Human Rights Law and the Draft UN Norms", *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*, 542 U.S. 692 (2004).

Week 6: Sept. 29 Development: Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, pp. 3-11, 35-53.

Oct. 1 Development in International Economic Law- sources, topics and issues
(readings TBA)
(drop period ends Oct. 3)

Week 7: Oct. 6 Bribery and Corruption: Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Stuart Green, “Bribery”
Dunfee and Donaldson, “Untangling the Corruption Knot: Global Bribery Viewed
Through the Lens of Integrative Social Contract Theory”.

Oct. 8 Kim Scheppele, “The Inevitable Corruption of Transition”
(Fall break, Oct. 9-12)

Week 8: Oct. 13 Environmental Regulation (reading TBA)

Oct. 15: Mid-Term exam

Week 9: Oct. 20: Workers Rights and Labor Standard: by Fung, O’rourke and Sabel, et. al.,
Can We Put an End to Sweatshops? (all)

Oct. 22: Powell & Zwolinski, “The Ethical and Economic Case Against Sweatshop
Labor: A Critical Assessment”

Week 10: Oct. 27: Fairness in Trade: Jagdish Bhagwati, *Free Trade Today*, pp. 3-61

Oct. 29: Stiglitz & Charlton, *Fair Trade For All*, pp. 1-9, 67-105
(Oct. 31- last day to withdraw from a course)

Week 11: Nov. 3: Boycotts and Embargos- government imposed (Readings TBA)

Nov. 5: Boycotts and Embargos- consumer or shareholder driven (Readings TBA)

Week 12: Nov. 10: Tax havens and avoidance of “foreign” taxes (Readings TBA)

Nov. 12: Nationalization: what is it, and is it ever justified? (Readings TBA)

Week 13: Nov. 17: Left Open

Nov. 19: First Debate

Week 14: Nov. 24: Second Debate

Nov. 26 No class (Friday classes meet this day. Nov. 27-30- Thanksgiving break)

Week 15: Dec. 1: Third Debate

Dec. 3: Fourth Debate

Week 16: Dec. 8: Last day of class- wrap-up.

(Last Day of Classes, Dec. 9. Reading days, Dec. 10-11)

Final Paper Due on Assigned Final Exam Day