

University of Pennsylvania/The Wharton School
Legal Studies 612/Responsibility in Business

Fall 2018, Quarter 2, Section 002

Syllabus

Instructor: Ronald A. Sarachan

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Class time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday

Classroom: F45

Office hours: By appointment

Course Description: This course focuses on the responsible leader in business. Each class is organized around a single theme. Each theme is used to explore important aspects of responsibility in business. The focus is on case studies and practical approaches to resolving real problems. Law, moral philosophy and social sciences provide tools to help identify and analyze the issues and reach reasoned judgments. Emphasis is placed on class discussion and exercises.

Course Requirements and Grading: Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to read the material for each class before class and be prepared to actively participate in class discussion and exercises. An unexcused absence from class or failure to be prepared for class will result in a loss of grade. There will be written assignments and a final exam. Final grades will be based on class participation (30%), written assignments (35%) and the final exam (35%).

Course Outline and Reading List: Assignments will follow the outline provided below. There may be changes to the outline. Readings will be distributed in class or will be available electronically on Canvas.

Class 1 (October 22): Individual Decision-making and Responsibility in Organizations

“The Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster – Part 1”

“The Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster – Part 2”

Dennis Gioia, “Personal Reflections on the Pinto Fires Case”

Class 2 (October 29): Wearing Two Hats? Personal Responsibility and Business Responsibility

“Merck & Co., Inc.”

“Tennessee Coal and Iron”

(Class 2 continued):

J.M. Shea, Jr., "Memo of a Dallas Citizen"

Milton Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business Is To Increase Its Profits"

Edward Freeman, "Managing for Stakeholders"

Kenneth Goodpaster, "Business Ethics and Stakeholder Analysis"

Class 3 (November 5): Deciding What's Right – Moral Philosophy

Ursula Le Guin, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas"

Jerry Useem, "The Analyst's Dilemma"

Martin Sandu, "Dicing with Death? A case study of Guidant Corporation's implantable defibrillator"

Thomas Donaldson & Patricia Werhane, "Introduction to Ethical Reasoning"

Class 4 (November 12): Responsibility in Multicultural Settings

Barnaby Feder, "Alchemist's Dream Come True"

S. Prakash Sethi, "The World of Wal-Mart"

Charles Duhigg & David Barboza, "In China, Human Costs Are Built Into an iPad"

Paul Krugman, "In Praise of Cheap Labor: Bad jobs at bad wages are better than no jobs at all"

Thomas Donaldson, "Values in Tension: Ethics Away from Home"

John Rawls, "Distributive Justice"

Mark Hunter, "Business E-Ethics: Yahoo! On Trial"

Jeffrey Rosen, "Google's Gatekeepers"

Class 5 (November 26): Why We Make Bad Decisions – Psychology and Corporate Crime

Bart Van Dissel, "Martha McCaskey"

T. Dean Maines & Kenneth Goodpaster, "The Corporate Scandals of 2002: *Enron, Inc.*"

Robert Kaplan & David Kiron, "Accounting Fraud at WorldCom"

Stanley Milgram, "Obedience to Authority" (Preface and Chapter 1)

"Deciding What's Right: A Psychological Approach"

Class 6 (December 3): Responsibility and Leadership (Readings TBA)