

**The Wharton School
University of Pennsylvania
Ethics and Social Responsibility
LGST 100
Part I (Jan 13 Ver.)**

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663 JMHH
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Office Hours: W@1.30 & by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course asks the question: what is the morally right thing to do in business? Other courses at Penn explore the causes of wrongdoing and the institutions that regulate conduct in business; we, too, will consider these topics, but as background. Our working hypothesis is that in order to know what causes wrongdoing, one must have an idea what should count as wrongdoing, though that idea can be particularly elusive in complex business contexts.

We begin by considering skepticism about morality. Throughout the semester we consider some concrete moral problems in business, including tactics in negotiation; VW and other recent business scandals; insider trading; sweatshops and outsourcing; corporate responsibility to people other than shareholders; workplace ethics; executive compensation. In an early part of the course, we consider leading normative moral theories.

READINGS: Most readings for the course will be available through the library's electronic course reserves; there may also be in-class handouts. You may access e-reserves for the course via Canvas. Readings for the first part of the course are listed below. The remainder will be distributed after the midterm, when I have a better idea about student interests and developments in the news. It will include a focus on international issues.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to complete the reading before class and to actively participate in classroom discussion. Material is covered in each class that is not available in the readings. Some important learning will come not directly from lectures or readings, but through reflection on your behavior and that of your classmates as you participate in simulations and discuss cases. Consequently, you should miss class only for an extraordinary reason. Absences will be reflected in grades. I plan on taking attendance electronically. To register your attendance, you should download and use the WhartonConnect app for your phone. Details will follow.

EXAMS: There will be two midterms and a final. Each midterm is worth 20%; the final is worth 60%. Improvement counts. Students may also substantially improve their grades through excellent class participation.

SCHEDULE PT. I (subject to minor change)

1-16. Introduction

What to do with money (no reading)

1-23 Relativism

Boghossian, The maze of moral relativism

Prinz, Morality is a culturally conditioned response

1-28 Corporate Social Responsibility

Friedman, The social responsibility of business is to increase profits

Stout, The problem of corporate purpose

Freeman, Stakeholder theory of the modern corporation

1-30 Corporate Social Responsibility

Merck & Co., Inc.

ALI, Principles of corporate governance

2-4 Corporate Social Responsibility

Pettit, Responsibility, Inc

Ewing, Inside VW's campaign of trickery

2-6 Consequentialist Reasoning

Sandhu, Dicing with death

Sandel, The greatest happiness principle (TBD)

2-11 Egoism

Feinberg, Psychological egoism

2-13 Deontological Reasoning

Material on Kant (TBD)

2-18 Justice

Moriarty, Do CEO's get paid too much?

Rawls, Distributive justice

2-20 Justice

Nozick, Distributive justice

2-25 Exercise

2-27 Midterm