

LGST 920 ETHICS IN BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Professor Amy J. Sepinwall

Ph.D. course - Spring 2019

[some readings and course topics subject to change]

Description: This is a course that aims to familiarize the student with the theoretical foundations of business ethics scholarship. In particular, the course will focus on readings in moral philosophy and moral psychology that underpin the business ethics literature. The course seeks to familiarize the student with both foundational texts and emerging scholars and scholarship. We will proceed on the basis of substantive topics. Topics are selected in part with consideration for “business relevance” and in part for general relevance to the field from an academic perspective with the development of future scholarship and teaching in mind. For each topic we will read one or more theory pieces as well as a combination of canonical and newer applied pieces. The provisional topics and readings are listed below. (I expect some of this to change in light of your interests and my hope that we can get one or more scholars in to share their work with us.)

Formal requirements: Students’ major assignment will be to produce a paper of publishable quality by the end of the semester. That paper should be *18-22 pages in length* – double-spaced, including single-spaced footnotes. (A single-spaced bibliography may also be appended, if sources are not fully cited in notes. It would count in terms of the page limits.) *The paper topic must be discussed with the professor and approved in advance. A short, written proposal for the paper should be submitted as part of this process (but will not be graded).* The written proposal is due **March 10, 2019, at 8 PM**. I will schedule meetings with each of you for the week of March 11 to discuss your proposals. Each student will workshop a draft version of their paper in one of our last two class sessions, and the other seminar participants will offer constructive feedback. The final deadline for the paper is **May 6, 2019**.

In addition, students will be expected to participate actively in seminar discussions. To that end, students will be asked to present the material for the week several times over the course of the semester. Short reflection papers may be assigned. The quality and regularity of class participation, including presentation of the material, and response papers (if any) may be taken into account to increase or decrease a student’s final grade by one-half step (e.g., B+ to A- or vice versa).

Class 1: **Introduction: Moral Limits of the Market I**

Jan. 16

Readings:

- Margaret Jane Radin and Mahdavi Sunder, Introduction: The Subject and Object of Commodification
- Elizabeth Landes and Richard Posner, The Economics of the Baby Shortage
- Patricia Williams, In Search of Pharoah's Daughter
- Michael Sandel, What Money Can't Buy
- Richard Posner, Community and Conscription

Class 2: **Moral Limits of the Market II -- Prostitution**

Jan. xx

Readings:

- Elizabeth Anderson, Value and the Gift of Sexuality
- Martha Nussbaum, Taking Money for Bodily Services
- Debra Satz, Markets in Women's Sexual Labor
- Jason Brennan and Peter Jaworski, Markets without Symbolic Limits

Class 3: **Distributive Justice and Immigration**

Jan. xx

Readings:

A. Distributive Justice

- John Rawls, A Theory of Justice
- Robert Nozick, The Entitlement Theory
- Peter Singer, Famine, Affluence and Morality

B. Immigration

- David Miller, Immigration: The Case for Limits
- Michael Huemer, Is There a Right to Immigrate?

Class 4: **Complicity and Historic Injustice**

Feb. xx

Readings:

- G.A. Cohen, Casting the First Stone: Who Can, and Who Can't, Condemn the Terrorists?
- Peter Benson, The Basis of Corrective Justice and Its Relation to Distributive Justice

- Christopher Kutz, Justice in Reparations: The Cost of Memory and the Value of Talk
- Debra Satz, Countering the Wrongs of the Past: The Role of Compensation
- Adrian Vermeule, Reparations As Rough Justice

Class 5: **Discrimination and Structural Injustice**

Feb. xx

Readings:

- Owen Fiss, Groups and the Equal Protection Clause
- Adam Slavny and Tom Parr, Harmless Discrimination
- Richard Arneson, Discrimination and Harm
- Iris Marion Young, Political Responsibility and Structural Injustice

Class 6: **Exploitation**

Feb. xx

Readings:

- Matt Zwolinski, Sweatshops, Choice, and Exploitation
- Rob Hughes, Title TBD
- Julian Jonker, Title TBD
- Nico Cornell, Title TBD

Class 7: **Responsibility without Fault**

Feb. xx

Readings:

- Ori Herstein, Nobody's Perfect: Moral Responsibility in Negligence
- Richard Epstein, A Theory of Strict Liability
- Gregory Keating, Strict Liability Wrongs
- Jon Goldberg and Benjamin Zipursky, The Strict Liability in Fault and the Fault in Strict Liability
- Gregory Keating, Is There Really No Liability Without Fault: A Critique of Goldberg & Zipursky
- Amy Sepinwall, Faultless Guilt (excerpt)

Class 8: **Corporate Moral Responsibility and Corporate Personhood**

Mar. xx

Readings:

- Peter French, The Corporation As a Moral Person
- Tom Donaldson, Moral Agency and Corporations
- Philip Pettit, Responsibility, Incorporated
- John Hasnas, Should Corporations Have the Right to Vote? A Paradox in the Theory of Corporate Moral Agency
- Susan Wolf, The Legal and Moral Responsibility of Organizations
- William Laufer and Steven Walt, Why Corporate Personhood Doesn't Matter

Class 9: **(Corporate) Moral Responsibility and Emotion**

Mar. xx

Readings:

- Gunnar Bjornsson and Kendy Hess, "Corporate Crocodile Tears?: The Reactive Attitudes of Corporate Agents", Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 94(2): 273-298. 2017.
- David Shoemaker, Title TBD
- Amy Sepinwall, Blame, Emotion, and the Corporation
- Hanna Pickard, Title TBD

Class 10: **Deception and Competition**

Mar. xx

Readings:

- Alan Strudler, On the Ethics of Deception in Negotiation
- Carr, Is Business Bluffing Ethical?
- Joseph Heath, "But Everyone Else Is Doing It": Competition and Business Self-Regulation
- Chris Essert, Title TBD
- David Owens, Title TBD

Class 11: **Empirical Moral Psychology and Business Ethics**

Mar. xx

Readings:

- Salvador, R., and Folger, R.G., Business Ethics and the Brain
- Diana Robertson, Christian Voegtlin and Thomas Maak, Business Ethics, The Promise of Neuroscience
- Josh Greene, The Secret Joke of Kant's Soul
- Selim Berker, The Normative Insignificance of Neuroscience

- P.F. Strawson, Freedom and Resentment
- Joshua Knobe and John Doris, Strawsonian Variations: Folk Morality and the Search for a Unified Theory

Class 12: Ethics at Work and ???

Apr. xx

Readings:

- Richard Epstein, In Defense of the Contract at Will
- Ian Maitland, Rights in the Workplace: A Nozickian Argument
- Elizabeth Anderson, Liberty, Equality and Private Government, Lecture II

Class 13: Corporations and Political Corporate Social Responsibility; ???

Apr. xx

Readings:

- Andreas Scherer and Guido Palazzo, Toward a Political Conception of Corporate Responsibility: Business and Society Seen from a Habermasian Perspective
- Sandrine Blanc and Ismael Al-Amoudi, Corporate Institutions in a Weakened Welfare State: A Rawlsian Perspective
- Abraham Singer, There Is No Rawlsian Theory of Corporate Governance

Class 14: Critical/Alternative Approaches to Business Ethics; ???

Apr. xx

Readings

- A. Alternative Approaches
 - Nneka Logan, Corporate Personhood and the Corporate Responsibility to Race
 - Miranda Fricker, Epistemic Justice As a Condition of Political Freedom?
 - Robert Solomon, Corporate Roles, Personal Virtue: An Aristotelian Approach to Business Ethics
- B. Student draft papers

Class 15: Business Ethics and the Good Life

Apr. xx

Readings:

- A. The Good Life
 - Jean-Paul Sartre, Existentialism Is a Humanism

- Richard Taylor, *The Meaning of Life*
- Susan Wolf, *Meaning of Life*
- Christine Vitrano, *Meaningful Lives*

B. Marriage

- Elizabeth Brake, *Minimal Marriage*
- Ralph Wedgwood, *Is Civil Marriage Illiberal?*

C. Student draft papers