
Legal Studies 100

Ethics and Social Responsibility

Professor Nichols

nicholsp@wharton.
upenn.edu

he/him/his

LGST 100-001 MW 9:00 to 10:30 •

• LGST 100-002 MW 10:30 to noon

This is a class about business ethics, and the responsibilities of businesspeople and all members of society. Business is inextricably intertwined with the rest of society; you will face difficult questions and should be prepared to understand them and to respond to them. We will explore three aspects of business ethics: determining what is right and wrong, trying not to do what is wrong, and trying to do what is right. At the end of this course you should be better prepared to deal with questions of right and wrong, whether as a member of a business (or any other) organization, as a leader of a business (or any other) organization, or as an individual person.

Expectation in the Age of Covid

Although there will be asynchronous parts of this class, we will be meeting at regularly scheduled class times and you are expected to participate in those classes. **Access class through the zoom site embedded in Canvas.** Accessing the class through canvas automatically signs you in, so that you do not have to go through the security protocols, and enables you to rejoin a class in session if you accidentally leave.

Before Each Class: (1) Do the assigned reading and watch the assigned video(s). All of the assigned readings are available in the Files section of the Canvas site for this class; when available URLs are also provided in the syllabus. The videos are short. Some videos can be accessed through the Canvas site; for some videos an external url is provided. (2) Take the assigned quiz on the readings/video. You will access the quizzes through the Canvas site for this class.

In Class: Other than the days used for debates and the project reports, class is a time to discuss the concepts and frameworks laid out in the readings and the videos. Sometimes we will have breakout rooms and sometimes we will spend all of our time as a class. Given the constraints of virtual meeting it will be difficult to have open discussions with the entire class; sometimes you may be called on but often participation will occur in more structured ways. This kind of classroom is new for many of us, so if you have any questions at all about what is expected or how to engage, please just ask me.

During the First Two (Maybe Three) Weeks: Schedule a one-on-one office hours with me. There will be a way to schedule through the Canvas site for this class. We will talk for about fifteen minutes.

At Least Once a Week – Your Journal: You are asked to keep a journal in this class during this semester. Please make an entry in your journal at least once each week. Entries do not need to be very long but they must indicate some degree of care and thought. In each entry, please discuss your thoughts about moral rules, your own personal values, and your own sense of mindfulness. You do not need to share personal stories in your journal, and you should not use your journal to ask for help. If you need help just ask; I have been

at Penn a long time and can help you find a good place to go, and if you are not comfortable talking with me I can help you find someone better. All entries will be held in strict confidence (except that I am required by law to alert an authority if someone threatens to harm a person). Your journal will not be graded on content but will be graded on whether or not you made the entries and whether the entries indicate some degree of effort.

Debates: After we get through the part of class in which we examine frameworks for normative reasoning, we will have class debates on normative issues. You will be randomly assigned to a team, and each team will be randomly assigned to a topic and a position on that topic. Each team will present its arguments in favor of its position to the class and will engage with the arguments of the other team. Members of class will then ask questions of each team. Each team will also submit a paper (five page limit) that briefly summarizes the normative issues and that clearly explains the arguments supporting its position. Debates and papers will be graded on cogency and thoroughness, and on the degree to which they show an understanding of normative frameworks. We will talk about the debates, but you should always feel free to ask me any questions.

Project: You will be asked to help solve a problem or advance social goals. You will be randomly assigned to a team (different than your debate team) and each team will be randomly assigned to a project. We will discuss ways that business organizations can help to achieve socially desirable goals, but you should feel free to be creative in your approach. Each team will give a report on how it will work to resolve the problem it has been assigned, and members of class will ask questions after the report. Each team will also submit a paper (five page limit). Presentations and papers will be graded on the understanding of the problem, and the coherency of the approach to solving that problem. We will talk more about the projects, but you should always feel free to ask questions.

Final Statement of Values: A final paper (two page limit) is due in the last week of class. In this paper, you will briefly describe what values are important to you, and you will explain how you plan to live up to those values as you continue through Penn and through life. I will not grade based on what values you choose, nor will I judge. The paper will be graded on its clarity, evidence of effort, and evidence that you thought about the material in this course.

Office Hours

Office hours will be held on Tuesdays from 10:00 to noon. A link to office hours will be available on the Canvas site; please access office hours through Canvas in order to protect security. You do not need to have a question to come to office hours; office hours are a great time to swap ideas and to hear other people's perspectives. Office hours are a lot of fun. If you have questions but cannot attend office hours during regularly scheduled times we can try to find another time.

Study Groups

Form study groups. They are a great way to practice thinking and talking about the concepts in this class, and a great way to meet people. Use the chat functions on the Canvas site to find potential study group partners, or ask me to help.

Cheating

This is an ethics class. Don't cheat. Some of the work is group work, other than that please do all of the required work yourself. If you quote someone or use someone else's idea, cite them. Again, we are in new environment, so if you have any questions at all about whether something would be cheating, please ask. I will not judge, and it is much better to ask than to risk cheating.

Grading

class engagement	10% (individual)
reading/video quizzes	10% (individual)
debate	30% (group)
project	30% (group)
final values paper	10% (individual)

Classes, Material, and Assignments

<i>date</i>	<i>topic</i>	<i>readings/videos (all readings are in the Canvas site)</i>
Sep 2	expectations and issues of the day	none
Sep 7	no class	it is a holiday (Labor Day) in the United States
Sep 9	case	The Parable of the Sadhu no video
Sep 14	what is business ethics?	Amartya Sen, Does Business Ethics Make Economic Sense? Terry Thomas, John R. Schermerhorn, Jr. & John W. Dierhart, Strategic Leadership of Ethical Behavior in Business video: on Canvas
Sep 16	justice	Chaz Howard, Baltimore: The Dehumanizing Gaze and Thug Life www.huffpost.com/entry/baltimore-the-dehumanizing-gaze-and-thug-life_b_7163740 Kerner Commission Report www.eisenhowerfoundation.org/docs/kerner.pdf (skim the report) Ta-Nehisi Coates, The Case for Reparations www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/ video: on Canvas

FRAMEWORKS		
Sep 21	frameworks: utilitarianism versus rights	Utilitarianism – Introduction to Philosophy press.rebus.com-community/intro-to-phil-ethics/chapter/utilitarianism/#:~:text=Utilitarians%20concern%20is%20how%20to,reduction%20of%20the%20maximum%20good . Deontological Ethics (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-deontological/ videos: (1) youtu.be/-FrZI22_79Q (2) youtu.be/wWZi-8Wji7M
Sep 23	Confucian and Virtue	Peter R. Woods & David Lamond, Junzi and Rushang www.anzam.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf-manager/623_ANZAM2011-434.PDF Virtue Ethics (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-virtue/ videos: (1) www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnuQB7TYRuk (this video is background for the Junzi and Rushang reading; you will not be quizzed on it) (2) youtu.be/NMbIKpkKYao
Sep 28	stakeholder v shareholder	Martin E. Sandbu, Two Extreme Views video: on Canvas
Sep 30	a case	Dicing with Death
Oct 5	justice	Distributive Justice (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-distributive/ video: youtu.be/qWSYpiE54cg
AVOIDING MISTAKE		
Oct 7	honesty/dis- honesty	Alain Cohn, Michel André Maréchal, David Tannenbaum & Christian Lukas Zünd, Civic Honesty Around the Globe science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/365/6448/70.full.pdf Nina Mazar, On Amir & Dan Ariely, The Dishonesty of Honest People journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1509/jmkr.45.6.633 video: youtube.com/watch?v=kyHLdpma3nQ
Oct 12	unconscious bias	Max H. Bazerman, George Loewenstein & Don A. Moore, Why Good Accountants do Bad Audits www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/gl20/GeorgeLoewenstein/Papers_files/pdf/WhyGoodAccountants.pdf

		video: youtube.com/watch?v=wEwGBlr_Rlw
Oct 14	a case	The Fall of Enron
DEBATES		
Oct 19	debate	team one v team two
Oct 21	debate	team three v team four
Oct 26	debate	team five v team six
Oct 28	debate	team seven v team eight
Nov 2	debate	team nine v team ten
DOING GOOD		
Nov 4	impact investing	<p>Amit Bouri, Three Big Takeaways From the Latest Impact Investing Data ssir.org/articles/entry/three_big_takeaways_from_the_latest_impact_investing_data</p> <p>Why Impact Investing Needs to Go Mainstream knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/impact-investing-going-mainstream/ (like all articles this is posted in our Canvas site, but if you access it online you can listen to the podcast)</p> <p>video: in Canvas</p>
Nov 9	Stakeholder Trust	<p>Maximizing Stakeholder Trust as a Tool for Controlling Corruption</p> <p>2020 Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report www.edelman.com/trustbarometer (click on “download the 2020 Edelman Trust Barometer report”) (skim the report)</p> <p>video: in Canvas</p>
Nov 11	Creating Shared Value	<p>Michael E. Porter & Mark R. Porter, Creating Shared Value</p> <p>video: in Canvas</p>
PROJECT REPORTS		
Nov 16	project	group one, group two
Nov 18	project	group three, group four
Nov 23	project	group five, group six
Nov 25	no class	friday schedule (go to the classes you go to on friday)
Nov 30	project	group seven, group eight
PURPOSE		
Dec 2	giving voice to values	<p>Tracy L. Gonzalez-Padron, O. C. Ferrell, Linda Ferrell & Ian A. Smith, A Critique of Giving Voice to Values Approach to Business Ethics Education (excerpt)</p> <p>Pillar One – Values: youtu.be/b3Q-E7-lkt4 Pillar Two – Choice: youtu.be/ljDcziaELE0 Pillar Three – Normalization: youtu.be/ffDKcnKL0tY</p>

		Pillar Four – Purpose: youtu.be/7dAela3UW0s
Dec 7	giving voice to values	<p>same reading as for the previous class</p> <p>Pillar Five – Self Knowledge and Alignment: youtu.be/fMF8K8AXM8E</p> <p>Pillar Six – Voice: youtu.be/ZSoXqsrOqqM</p> <p>Pillar Seven – Reasons & Rationalization: youtu.be/i9KMJuGg52Q</p>
Dec 9	purpose of business	<p>Business Roundtable, Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation www.opportunity.businessroundtable.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/BRT-Statement-on-the-Purpose-of-a-Corporation-August-2020.pdf</p> <p>video: youtube.com/watch?v=oeKWywi3AwE</p>
Dec 10 THURS DAY	purpose in your life	<p>David Brooks, The Moral Bucket List info.wartburg.edu/Portals/0/Pathways/Vocation/The%20Moral%20Bucket%20List.pdf</p> <p>Clayton M. Christensen, How Will You Measure Your Life, hbr.org/2010/07/how-will-you-measure-your-life</p> <p>no video</p>