

**The Wharton School
University of Pennsylvania
Ethics and Social Responsibility
LGST 100 03
(ver. 9-8-21)**

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Course description: This course asks the question: what is the morally right thing to do in business? Among topics we consider: sweatshops and outsourcing; corporate responsibility to shareholders and others; insider trading; ethics across borders; workplace ethics; autonomous cars; normative moral theory; skepticism about morality in business; honesty. Readings will be available on CANVAS in “course materials @ penn libraries,” unless noted below as available on CANVAS in “study.net.”

The aims of this course are 1) to survey a range of important ethical and legal issues that arise for business leaders; 2) to analyze the ways in which these issues ought to figure in decision-making by responsible business leaders; 3) to aid in the critical understanding of your own values and the values of others; 4) to refine your ability to engage in reasonable discussion with people whose moral views differ from your own.

Grades:

There will be two in class quizzes, each worth 25 points; a paper outline, worth 5 points; and a final paper, worth 45 points. Due dates on papers and outlines tba.

A magnificent job on final paper will increase the weight of the paper grade.

Contributions to class discussion may improve your grade.

Consistent attendance is required, except for medical issues.

Unexcused attendance beyond three classes will affect your grade.

Electronics: You may not use phones, computers, or similar electronic devices in class.

Food: You may not eat in class. You may drink only through straws.

Masks: Masks covering nose and mouth are required in class.

SCHEDULE (subject to change):

Sept 1 Introduction

Sept 6 No class

Sept 8 Egoism

Feinberg, Psychological egoism

Sept 13 Basic ethics

Nagel, Right and wrong

Sandhu, Dicing with death (study.net)

Sept 15

Exercise

Sept 20 Negotiation

Shell, When is it legal to lie in negotiation?

Sept 22 Ethical theory

Moriarty, Crash course in business ethics

Kerstein, Treating persons as means

Sept 27 High Tech Manipulation

Bhargava and Velasquez, Ethics of the attention economy

Sept 29 Corporate Social Responsibility

Friedman, The social responsibility of business is to increase profits

Oct 4 Corporate Social Responsibility

Freeman, Stakeholder theory of the modern corporation

Orts and Strudler, Putting a stake in stakeholder theory

Oct 6 Corporate Social Responsibility

Stout, The problem of corporate purpose

Case, Merck & Co. ([study.net](#))

American Law Institute, Principles of corporate governance

Oct 11

Exercise

Oct 13

Debrief exercise

Oct 18 Insider Trading

Case, Texas Gulf Sulphur ([study.net](#))

Levine, Insider trading isn't so simple

Oct 20 Insider Trading

Case, O'Hagan ([study.net](#))

Oct 25 Justice

Rawls, A theory of justice

Nozick, Distributive justice

Oct 27 Racial Justice

Coates, The case for reparations

Te-Ping Chen, Why are there so few black CEOs

Nov 1 Exploitation

Zwolinski, Sweatshops, choice, and exploitation

Nov 3 Quiz**Nov 8 International Business Ethics**

Singer, Famine, affluence and morality

Nov 10 International Business Ethics

Donaldson, Values in tension ([study.net](#))

Nov 15 A Western Perspective on Organizations

Anderson, Private government

Nov 17 An Eastern perspective on the Organization

Ihara, Are individual rights necessary? A Confucian perspective

Nov 22 Autonomous Cars

Crockett, The trolley problem

Lin, Autonomous cars

Nov 24 No Class

Nov 29 Catchup

Dec 1 Quiz

Dec 6 Neuroethics?

Green, From neural is to moral ought

Berker, The normative insignificance of neuroscience

Singer, Ethics and intuitions

Dec 8 You

Wolf, Moral saints

Macaskill, Responsibility, making a difference, and career choice