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
Sandbu, 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