

The Wharton School
University of Pennsylvania
Ethics and Social Responsibility LGST 100 01, 02
(Ver. 1-24-21)
S 21

Professor Alan Strudler
strudler@wharton.upenn.edu
Office Hours: Th 1.30 & by appt.

Sec. 001 TA: Carter Stephens
cargstep@wharton.upenn.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 1.30 and by appt.

Sec. 002 TA: Brooke Parmalee
brparm@pennlaw.upenn.edu
Office Hours: Friday 11 and by appt.

Course description: This course asks the question: what is the morally right thing to do in business? Among topics we consider: tactics in negotiation; sweatshops and outsourcing; corporate responsibility to people other than shareholders; insider trading; ethics across borders; workplace ethics; autonomous cars; normative moral theory; skepticism about morality in business. Readings will be available on CANVAS.

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.

Requirements:

Quizzes (40%): There will be four quizzes administered through CANVAS, each worth 10 points. Quiz dates are 2-8; 3-1; 3-24; 4-21.

Final paper proposal (10%): Due 3-17.

Final paper (50%): 6-8 page paper. Due 5-7. You choose a topic in consultation with your TA. (Fabulous work on final paper may lessen the weight of deficient quiz scores.)

Discussion/Participation. (May improve your grade.)

Consistent attendance is required, except for medical issues or pressing covid problems. Unexcused attendance beyond three classes will affect your grade. Students in distant locations attending through Zoom must write weekly response papers and Zoom with TA or instructor four times during the semester.

SCHEDULE (subject to change):

Jan 20: Introduction

Jan 25: Morality and practice

Crockett, The trolley problem

Lin, Why ethics matters for autonomous cars

Jan 27: Corporate social responsibility

Friedman, The social responsibility of business is to increase profits

Paine, Does ethics pay?

Feb 1: Corporate social responsibility

Freeman, Stakeholder theory of the modern corporation

Stout, The problem of corporate purpose

Feb 3: Corporate social responsibility

Weiss, Merck & Co.

ALI, Principle of corporate governance

Feb 8: Normative ethics

Moriarty, Crash course (tbd)

Feb 10: Skepticism about normative ethics

Moriarty, Skepticism (tbd)

Feb 15: A practical problem

Sandbu, Dicing with death

Feb 17: Information

Shell, When is it legal to lie in negotiations?

Feb 22: Distributive justice

Rawls, A theory of justice

Feb 24: Distributive justice

Nozick, Distributive justice

Mar 1: Reparations

Coates, Reparations

CNN, Slavery reparations

Mar 3: Corporate Duties

tba

Mar 8: Insider trading

US v. Texas Gulf Sulphur

Mar 15 Insider trading

US v. O'Hagan

Mar 17 International business ethics

Thompson, Google's China problem

Mar 22 International business ethics

Donaldson, Moral minimums for multinationals

Mar 24 How much should we do?

Singer, Famine, affluence, and morality

Mar 29 Exploitation

Zwolinski, Sweatshops, choice, and exploitation

Krugman, In praise of cheap labor

Mar 31 Exploitation

Meyers, Wrongful beneficence

Apr 5 Organizational ethics

Anderson, Liberty, equality, and private government

Apr 7 Organizational ethics

Ihara, Are individual rights necessary? A Confucian perspective

Apr 14 Neuroethics

Greene, From neural "is" to moral "ought"

Berker, The normative insignificance of neuroscience

Shaw, The psychologists take power (optional)

Apr 19

tba

Apr 21

tba

Apr 26: You

Wolf, Moral Saints

Apr 28: You

Macaskill, Replaceability and career choice