

LGST 2200 International Business Ethics

Professor: Brookes Brown

Office Hours:

T/Th: 1:30 -3

Or by appointment

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Office Location: 6th floor, Huntsman Hall

Course Description

This class provides a general introduction to international business ethics. We will investigate a variety of claims about the moral responsibilities of businesses operating cross nationally. At heart our topics is this: What does it mean to be a moral corporate leader, employee, or consumer in a global context?

Questions to be addressed include: What if anything is international about international business ethics? How do features of the international realm change the nature of our moral obligation? How should multi-national countries treat their employees? What are corporate responsibilities with regards to cross-national issues like climate change, human rights, and poverty?

This course aims to teach students how to analyze complex moral issues, how to engage in productive discussion on controversial topics, and how to advance careful and clearly defended claims in oral and written argument.

Assessment

- **Participation:** 20%
This is a discussion-oriented class. You are expected to actively debate and discuss the course material both with me and with each other throughout the course. Your participation will be actively assessed for quality and quantity (thoughtful questioning or debating is the key—simply speaking often will not earn you a high grade, but of course you cannot make an excellent point if you do not actively participate.)
- **Discussion Forum:** 15%
Each course unit will have a discussion forum. Student will be responsible for making at least one contribution per unit. Contributions can take the form of asking or answering substantive questions, extending, or challenging points made in the material or by classmates in other discussion posts, and so on. General topics will be suggested at the start of each unit. *Contributions must be submitted before the final day of the class in which we discuss the relevant unit.*
- **Presentation** (15% each)
You are responsible for a group presentation analyzing a relevant case study.
- **Analysis Paper** (20%)
You are responsible for a **short paper** (1100-1300 words) developing an objection to an argument that we encounter in class. **(March 2)**
- **Final paper draft:** April 13

- ***Final Paper draft response:*** 5% (600-800 words) (**April 20**)
You are responsible for writing a response paper developing an objection to an assigned classmate's final paper draft.
- ***Final Paper:*** 25% (2300-2500 words)
You are responsible for fully fleshing out an independent argument on one of the topics discussed in class.

Readings

Additional readings in the form of newspaper clippings on current events and suchlike will regularly be provided. Those should also be read before class.

Unit 1: What is International Business Ethics? Introduction to the Field

January 12 - Introduction

No reading

January 17

Richard De George, "International Business Ethics" pgs 1-6
Patricia Werhane, "Globalization and its Challenges for Business and Business Ethics in the Twenty-First Century"

Unit 2: Migration

January 19

Managing skilled migration - Stanzyk (12 pages)
Should a cosmopolitan worry about brain drain? (2 pages)

January 24

- Stilz- Guest Workers and Second-Class Citizens (12 pages)
- Joseph Carens - Selections from the Ethics of Immigration, "Temporary Migrants" (19 pages)

January 26

No class

Unit 3: Human Rights

January 31

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations' 'Protect, Respect, and Remedy' Framework
Rashmi Venkatesan "The UN Framework on Business and Human Rights: A Workers' Rights Critique"

February 2

Florian Wettstein, "Silence as Complicity: Elements of a Corporate Duty to Speak Out against the Violation of Human Rights"

February 7

John Douglas Bishop, "The Limits of Corporate Human Rights Obligations and the Rights of For-Profit Corporations"

Unit 4: Bribery

February 9

Thomas Carson, "Bribery, Extortion, and the 'Foreign Corrupt Practices Act'"

February 14

Michael Philips, "Bribery"

Thomas Carson, "Bribery and Implicit Agreements: A Reply to Philips"

Michael Philips, "Bribery, Consent, and Prima Facie Duty: A Rejoinder to Carson"

Unit 5: Sweatshops and Other Issues of Labor Justice

February 16

Iris Marion Young, "Responsibility and Global Labor Justice"

February 21

Matt Zwolinski, "Sweatshops, Choice, and Exploitation"

Chris Meyers, "Wrongful Beneficence: Exploitation and Third World Sweatshops"

February 23

Helena De Bres, "Justice and International Trade"

Aaron James, "A Theory of Fairness in Trade"

February 28

Kristi Olson, "Autarky as a Moral Baseline"

March 2

Leif Wenar, "Property Rights and the Resource Curse"

Unit 6: Intellectual Property and Medications

March 14

Jorn Sonderholm, "Ethical Issues Surrounding Intellectual Property Rights"
Ian Maitland, "Priceless Goods: How Should Life-Saving Drugs be Priced?"

March 16

Richard De George "Intellectual Property and Pharmaceutical Drugs: An Ethical Analysis"
Seanna Shiffrin "The Incentives Argument for Intellectual Property Protection,"

Unit 7: Global Justice and Taxation

March 21

Gillian Brock, "Taxation and Global Justice: Closing the Gap Between Theory and Practice"

March 23

Gabriel Wollner, "Justice in Finance: The Normative Case for an International Financial Transaction Tax"

March 28

Presentations

March 30

Presentations

April 4

Presentations

Unit 8: Corporations and International Aid

April 6

Peter. Unger- Living High and Letting Die (selections)

April 11

Thomas Dunfee, "Do Firms with Unique Competencies for Rescuing Victims of Human Catastrophes have Special Obligations? Corporate Responsibility and the AIDS Catastrophe in Sub-Saharan Africa"

Unit 9: Climate Change and Environmental Responsibility

April 13

Robert Goodin, "Selling Environmental Indulgences"
Simon Caney, "Markets, Morality, and Climate Change: What, if Anything, is Wrong with Emissions Trading?"

April 18

Chukwumerije Okereke, "Moral Foundations for Global Environmental and Climate Justice"
Darrel Moellendorf, *The Moral Challenge of Dangerous Climate Change*, Ch. 1

April 20

Denis Arnold "Corporate Responsibility, Democracy, and Climate Change"
Catriona McKinnon "Should we Tolerate Climate Change Denial"

April 25:

No Reading-- Overview

Course Policies

Electronics Policy:

Research shows that the presence of laptops in the classroom decreases student participation and reduces retention of material. In short, there is reason to believe you will get less out of the class and your grade will suffer if you are on your computer or phone.

(See, for example, <http://teachingcenter.wustl.edu/Journal/Reviews/Pages/Research-In-Class-Devices.aspx#.U8RuVII1dXXw>) For this reason, **laptops, tablets, and phones are NOT permitted in class.** Please speak with me if you have a documented disability that would make this especially challenging. I take this seriously and will dock your grade if you are on your device at any point during the course without prior approval. Remember, there are no exams in this class, so verbatim notes would not prove useful.

You look silly trying to hide your phone under your desk. I can see that you have an apple watch.

Participation

Philosophy is fundamentally a dialogue between different points of view, each seeking to point out flaws in others' positions in the hope that by doing so they can arrive at the truth. You *will* disagree with each other. Far from being simply acceptable, that is desirable. Not only would it be boring if we all agreed, we stand the best chance of figuring out the right answers if each of us does our best to advance what we take to be the strongest claim and takes seriously and charitably the arguments of others.

Consequently, you are expected not only to attend class but also to participate regularly. Participation *does not mean just showing up*. Your mere presence will not earn you a passing grade much less an

excellent one. Instead, participation means raising questions or concerns that reflect *serious* and *charitable* engagement with the material and with the views advanced by your fellow classmates.

Attendance

It is not my job to decide what is important in your life. I therefore do not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. I allow you **three absences** over the course of the semester. These absences need not be justified to me. These are to be used for illness, job interviews, car accidents, family events, makeup classes, or whatever happens in your life or seems more important to you than class. Use them wisely and plan for the long term. Beyond that, absences that are not *highly unusual* such that *your permitted absences would not have been sufficient if you had planned appropriately* will count against your grade. (Basically, think “are my classmates likely to face the same challenges in balancing their lives and course-work.”)

As evidence that you have read this syllabus, please email me a photo of your favorite dog by the second class meeting.

Covid Policies

Like many of you, I have vulnerable people in my life. The fall as students gather is likely to be a time of high transmission, especially as additional boosters are not currently available to many of us. I ask you to please exercise serious care. Do not come to class if you feel sick, at all---even if you have tested negative on a rapid. Please wear a mask if you have any known or suspected exposure. It will be disruptive to our experience if members of our class get sick. Please do your part to keep our class together and to keep each other healthy. I will not hold your efforts to quarantine against you and will work with you to make sure you have all the information you need to succeed in the event that avoiding transmission or illness keeps you from class.

Plagiarism

Don’t plagiarize. Just don’t. If you got an idea from somewhere, or someone else, or yourself in a different class, cite it. If you have any questions about this, talk to me *before* acting. I will not hesitate to enact the most severe possible penalties on any misconduct. (And imagine having to explain that you cheated in an ethics class.....)

Office Hours

Please come! Talking things through one on one or in small groups is the best way to think about complicated philosophical ideas. I very much encourage you to bring your questions to office hours—but you also don’t have to have a specific question to come by and chat. If you cannot make the scheduled times, please reach out and we can work out an alternative meeting time. Sometimes there are cookies.

Don’t Mess Around

Do. Not. Pretend. To. Do. The. Reading.

There may be days in which not that many pages of reading are assigned. Do not be deceived. These readings are difficult. You will often have to read them several times to get a sense of what is going on. It is perfectly acceptable to find the material challenging, or to find yourself unsure of what is going on. There is no shame in that! I’m always happy to answer questions. But do not think you can get away

without doing the reading. It will detract from the quality of your classmates' experience--and I can tell. Really.

Late Paper Policy:

Papers will lose 1/3 of a letter grade for every day they turned in past the last due-by date. After 5 days, papers will not be accepted unless there has been prior discussion with the professor.

Grading

There will be no curve. The entire class could get an A, the entire class could get a C. Grades depend on individual performance. A+ will be awarded only for exceptional work and are extremely rare. The range is:

94%-98% =A	87%-89%= B+	80%-83%=B-	74%-77%C
90-93%= A-	84-87%=B	77%-79%= C+	70%-73%=C-