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BGEN 220E.06: Business Ethics and Social Responsibility

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The University of Montana
School of Business Administration
Department of Management and Marketing

SYLLABUS*



BGEN 220E ~ Fall 2015

**Syllabus mainly developed by Rob Walsh, PhD*

Course title: Business Ethics and Social Responsibility (3 credits)

Professor: Michael Harrington, J.D.

Semester: Fall 2015

Course designation: BGEN 220E

Sections: Section 5 (M W 8:10 am – 9:30 am) and Section 6 (M W 9:40 am – 11:00 am)

Office: GBB 364

Office Hours: M W 11:00 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment

Phone: 243-4663

Email: michael.harrington@business.umt.edu

Class meeting times / room: M W (8:10 am – 9:30 am and 9:40 am – 11:00 am) in GBB 123

What you learn in this course will be of real, practical value to you for the rest of your life and well worth the investment of your time and effort now.

Pre-requisites: It is assumed that you are able to communicate effectively in English at the college level.

Course Overview: This Business Ethics course is designed: (1) to elucidate what moral judgments are and to see how they are integral to all business decisions; (2) to understand how we go about making moral judgments in our lives, especially in the arena of business and commerce; (3) to learn how you can get better at making moral judgments through theoretical study, reflection, and practice; and (4) to learn to apply theoretical moral principles to the evaluation and judgment of complex ethical issues in business today. Our power of judgment is a kind of mental muscle, and like all muscles, it *develops through exercise*.

Moodle: There is a **Moodle web site** for this course. Everyone is expected to have taken the Moodle tutorial and be able to log onto the class web site on a daily basis. This is an important course component.

Text: No specific text is required for this course, but the instructor may assign readings during the course of the semester. These readings will be posted on Moodle.

Expectations: I have high expectations for each of you as a student in this course. I expect that you will attend all classes and do all the reading, writing, and research assignments by the due dates. I expect that you will participate in class by paying attention, taking notes, contributing to discussions, and participating in interactive assignments. *I expect that you will actively work with the Moodle online interactive feature of this course. Finally, I expect that your efforts will pay off and that you will successfully achieve a real boost to your intellectual and moral musculature.*

Commitment to You: I consider it an honor and privilege to be able to engage in inquiry and discussion with you this semester. I am hopeful that you will enjoy this course, that you will do well, and *that you will benefit from it personally*. Ultimately, as you undoubtedly realize, the benefit you derive out of your study of Ethics – as with any intellectual endeavor – will be proportionate to the amount of effort you put into it. The same goes for me. I always have more to learn, and I look forward to working with you in this collaborative educational effort.

Grading

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on assignments and exams, which will be weighted approximately as follows:

- Three (3) Exams: 0 to 100 pts. ea. = **300 points***
- Three (3) in-class/out-of-class assignments: 0 to 10 pts. each = **30 points**
- Three (3) in-class quizzes: 0 to 10 pts. each = **30 points**
- Two (2) Discussion Forum Posts: 0 to 10 pts. per post = **20 points**

- * We will have three (3) midterm exams on the dates listed below.

Total number of possible course points (approximately): **370 points****

- ** We will have a total of 80 points available among the three (3) in-class/out-of-class assignments, the three (3) in-class quizzes, and the two (2) Discussion Forum posts, but you will be allowed to drop your one (1) lowest score of these eight (8) assignments/quizzes/posts so that a total of 70 points will count toward your grade in the course.

Your final numerical grade will be determined by adding together all of the points you earn and determining a percentage score. The tentative/approximate grading scale is as follows:

A	90% to 100%
B	80% to 89.9%
C	70% to 79.9%
D	60% to 69.9%
F	Below 60%

➤ **Please note:** You must be present for exams as scheduled, and you may not leave the exam room during the exam. The use of any electronic devices (cell phones, calculators, PDAs, etc.) is strictly prohibited. You must take exams with your section unless you receive approval for a section change from the instructor. Except in extremely rare circumstances, **make-up exams will not be offered**. Missed midterm exams generally result in a score of zero for the missed exam.

The instructor reserves the right to alter the grading scale over the course of the semester. University policies regarding plus and minus grading will be followed. Course grades are non-negotiable, and “extra credit” is not offered. This course is offered only for a traditional letter grade; credit/no-credit grading is not an option.

Please keep in mind that you must earn a grade of at least a “C” in this course before you will be allowed to take any upper-division course offered by the School of Business Administration.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes. Some material presented only in class will be on quizzes and/or exams; please keep in mind that points will be awarded for in-class activities (including sometimes unannounced quizzes and/or assignments).

Disability Accommodations: If you have a documented disability for which you are requesting accommodations, please see the instructor during the first week of class. Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting the instructor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Incomplete policy: University policies regarding incompletes will be followed. In particular, the policy on incompletes is as follows:
The incomplete is not an option to be exercised at the discretion of students. In all cases it is given at the discretion of the instructor within the following guidelines . . . A mark of incomplete may be assigned students when:

1. *They have been in attendance and doing passing work up to three weeks before the end of the semester, and*
2. *For reasons beyond their control and which are acceptable to the instructor, they have been unable to complete the requirements of the course on time. Negligence and indifference are not acceptable reasons.*

Academic Misconduct: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.

SoBA Code of Professional Conduct:
<http://www.business.umt.edu/ethics/professional-conduct-code.php>

Class Protocol:

Name placards: All students should have a name placard on her or his desk while in the classroom. This really helps the instructor get to know everyone.

Classroom conduct: Professionalism and common courtesy are expected, and students who are disruptive may be asked to leave. If you have any questions as to proper classroom behavior, please ask the instructor.

Daily Class Topics & Exam Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule over the course of the semester. Any assigned readings should be read prior to the class in which they will be discussed.

SECTION I: Guest Speakers/Application of Ethical Theory to Moral Issues in Business [Professor Harrington; this section will begin on Monday, September 14th, and generally conclude with the second midterm exam on Monday, November 2nd]

1. Special Topic: Keystone XL Pipeline [Discussion Forum 1 – Due September 25th]
M 9/14 ... Guest Speaker/Facilitator: Professor Gerald Evans, MIS Department

2. Intersection of Ethics and Information Systems and Technology
W 9/16... Guest Speaker: Alex Philp, Entrepreneur/Former Owner, GCS Research

3. Intersection of Ethics and Marketing/Advertising
M 9/21 ... Guest Speaker: Bjorn Nabozney, Co-Founder, Big Sky Brewing Company

4. Intersection of Ethics and Global Business
W 9/23 ... Guest Speaker: Arnie Sherman, Managing Director, Global Development Holdings

5. Intersection of Ethics and Leadership
M 9/28 ... Guest Speaker: Fran Albrecht, Executive Director, Providence Montana Health Foundation and Member of Montana University System Board of Regents

W 9/30 ... **EXAM 1**

6. Intersection of Ethics and Accounting/Consulting
M 10/05... Guest Speaker: Mike Combo, Partner, Anderson ZurMuehlen

7. Special Topic: "Should College Athletes Be Paid?" [Discussion Forum 2 – Due October 30th]
M 10/12 ... Guest Speaker/Facilitator: Kent Haslam, Athletic Director, University of Montana

8. Intersection of Ethics and the Environment

W 10/14... Guest Speaker: Mary Gail Sullivan, Manager, Environmental Permitting & Compliance,
NorthWestern Energy

9. Intersection of Ethics and Human Resources/Employer-Employee Issues

W 10/21 ...Guest Speakers: Renee King (Human Resources Director) and Mindy Carver (General Counsel),
PayneWest Insurance

10. Intersection of Ethics and Business in General

M 10/26 ...Guest Speaker: Eric Sprunk, Chief Operating Officer, Nike, Inc.

M 11/02 ... **EXAM 2**

SECTION II: Lectures/Application of Ethical Theory to Moral Issues in Business [Professor Harrington]; this section will begin on Monday, August 31st, and generally conclude with the second midterm exam on Monday, November 2nd]

M 8/31 ... Introduction to Course
W 9/02 ... Lecture

M 9/07 ... **Labor Day NO CLASS**
W 9/09 ... Lecture

M 9/14 ... See above
W 9/16 ... See above

M 9/21 ... See above
W 9/23 ... See above

M 9/28 ... See above
W 9/30 ... **Exam 1**

M 10/05.. See above
W 10/07.. Lecture

M 10/12.. See above
W 10/14.. See above

M 10/19.. Lecture
W 10/21.. See above

M 10/26.. See above
W 10/28.. Lecture

M 11/02.. **Exam 2**

SECTION III: Moral Concepts, Judgment, Stages, and Theories; Moral Reasoning [Professor Harrington, with assistance from one or more philosophers/ethicists]; this section will begin on Wednesday, November 4th, and conclude with the third midterm exam on Wednesday, December 9th]

W 11/04

M 11/09
W 11/11 **Veterans' Day NO CLASS**

M 11/16

W 11/18

M 11/23

W 11/25 **Student Travel Day NO CLASS**

M 11/30

W 12/02

M 12/07

W 12/09 **EXAM 3**

Mission Statement and Assurance of Learning

The University of Montana's School of Business Administration enhances lives and benefits society by providing a world-class business education in a supportive, collegial environment.

We accomplish this mission by acting on our shared core values of creating significant experiences, building relationships, teaching and researching relevant topics, behaving ethically, and inspiring individuals to thrive.

As part of our assessment process and assurance-of-learning standards, the School of Business Administration has adopted the following learning goals for our undergraduate students:

Learning Goal 1: SoBA graduates will possess fundamental business knowledge.

Learning Goal 2: SoBA graduates will be able to integrate business knowledge.

Learning Goal 3: SoBA graduates will be effective communicators.

Learning Goal 4: SoBA graduates will possess problem solving skills.

Learning Goal 5: SoBA graduates will have an ethical awareness.

Learning Goal 6: SoBA graduates will be proficient users of technology.

Learning Goal 7: SoBA graduates will understand the global business environment in which they operate.

Course Learning Goals

1. Students will learn to evaluate various aspects of the business world from an ethical perspective.
2. Students will learn to read, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate specific cases involving questions related to business ethics.
3. Students will gain a working knowledge of various mainstream ethical theories – including Virtue Ethics, Natural Law Theory, Kantian Deontology, Utilitarianism, Existentialism, Pragmatism, and Distribute Justice – and will acquire an understanding of logical reasoning and critical thinking skills.