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PHIL 323.01: Business and Ethics

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Business and Ethics

I. Goals

The course has four goals:

- (1) Students develop a sense for the major moral problems in business.
- (2) Students get a firm grasp of the major ethical theories.
- (3) Students learn to what extent ethical theories illuminate moral problems in business.
- (4) Students understand that moral excellence in business must be rooted in the culture and the practices of the business.

II. Readings

Donaldson, Werhane, and Cordig, Ethical Issues in Business.

We will read the following selections from the five parts of the book and spend two to three weeks on each Part.

Part One

Bowie and Lenway
Friedman
Kelly
Kant

Part Two

Zimmerer
Wolf
Look
Smith
Marx
Carnegie
Ciulla
Rawls
Nozick
Walzer

Part Three

Business Enterprise Trust
Sen
Vandivier
Epstein

Part Four

Severance et. Al.
Rachels
UN Declaration

Part Five

Schwartz
Crisp

Newburry and Gladwin
Simon
Reed

There will be readings on current issues on conventional and electronic reserve in the Mansfield Library

Part III. Requirements

(A) Classroom Participation (30% of course grade)

It will be your obligation to show through participation in the classroom discussions that you are keeping up with the readings and are in command of the material presented in class. It will be my obligation to make everyone feel welcome and encouraged to participate.

Students will be called on to present brief summaries of the readings on the basis of notes or the marked up text.

(B) Three In-Class Examinations (each counting for 10% of the course grade)

- (1) October 6,
- (2) November 10,
- (3) December 18, 1:10 (final week)

(C) Term Paper (40% of grade)

1. Intent

The major tasks are three. (1) You have to take on a limited but significant issue of business ethics. (2) You have to bring some of the important points and perspectives developed in class to bear on the issue. (3) You have to forge (1) and (2) into an argument that bears the imprint of your convictions.

Beyond these three requirements you are free to draw on any material whatever. But be careful not to do so to the detriment of the basic threefold intent.

2. Technical Details

The paper must be typewritten and paper-clipped. Follow some standard format. The deadline is December 3. You are required to submit an outline before you begin detailed work on the paper. The outline is due November 5 at the LATEST. The length should be 2500 words (10 pages). Use of scholarly material beyond that discussed in class is not required or encouraged since it usually dilutes the crucial ingredient—original reflection.

NOTE:

To get a P in the course, you have to get at least a C-.
September 22 is the last day to add and drop classes by Cyber Bear.
October 13 is the last day to drop classes or change the grading option.

Office Hours: MWF 8:10-9:00 and by appointment in LA 149.

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If you have a disability, please let me know so we can provide accommodation.