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.
4. Students understand that moral excellence in business must be rooted in the culture and the practices of the business.

II. Readings


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
- Locke
- Smith
- Marx
- Carnegie
- Ciulla
- Rawls
- Nozick
- Nozick
- Walzer

Part Three
- Business Enterprise Trust
- Sen
- Vandivier
- Epstein

Part Four
- Severance et. Al.
- Rachels
- UN Declaration

Part Five
- Schwartz
- Crisp
There will be readings on current issues on conventional and electronic reserve in the Mansfield Library.

We will begin with two readings from Part Three because of their timeliness:

(1) American Institute of CPA's
(2) Jackall

**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. For background, every student will research a topic and make a fifteen minute presentation to the class.

It will be my obligation to make everyone feel welcome and encouraged to participate.

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

(1) October 3
(2) November 7
(3) December 19, 10:10 a.m. (final week)

(C) Term Paper (40% of course 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 typed 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 7 at the latest. The length should be 2500 words (10 pages).

**NOTE:**

September 23 is the last day to add and drop classes by Dial Bear.
October 14 is the last day to drop classes or change the grading option.

Office Hours: MWF 9:10-10:00 and by appointment in LA 149.
Phone and messages: 243-2792

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