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BGEN 220E.00: Business Ethics and Social Responsibility

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Course title: Business Ethics & Social Responsibility (3 credits)
Professor: Michael Harrington, J.D.
Semester: Fall 2018
Course designation: BGEN 220
Sections: Section 1 (M W 8:00 am – 9:20 am), Section 2 (M W 9:30 am – 10:50 am), and Section 3 (M W 11:00 am – 12:20 pm)
Office: GBB 361
Office Hours: M W 12:20 pm – 1:50 pm and by appointment or as available from August 27th through December 5th, except that no office hours will be held on Wednesday, September 12th; Monday, October 1st; or Wednesday, November 7th.
Phone: 243-4663
Email: michael.harrington@business.umt.edu
Class meeting times / room: M W (8:00 am – 9:20 am, 9:30 am – 10:50 am, and 11:00 am – 12:20 pm) in GBB 119

Pre-requisites
It is assumed that all students in this course are able to communicate effectively in English at the college level.

Course Overview and Learning Goals/Objectives
This Business Ethics course is designed to help students (1) analyze moral judgments and understand how they are integral to business decisions and how we go about making moral judgments in our lives, particularly in the business arena; (2) learn how we can improve our moral decision-making process through theoretical study, reflection, and practice; and (3) learn to apply theoretical moral principles to the evaluation and judgment of complex ethical issues in business.
The following learning goals and objectives apply:
- Students will learn to evaluate various aspects of the business world from an ethical perspective.
- Students will learn to read, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate specific cases and issues involving questions related to business ethics.
- Students will gain a working knowledge of various mainstream ethical theories – including Virtue Ethics, Kantian Deontology, and Utilitarianism – and will acquire an understanding of logical reasoning and critical thinking skills.
- Students will learn to distinguish between legal and ethical issues.

Moodle
There is a Moodle web site for this course. Everyone is expected to have taken the Moodle tutorial and to 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 will assign readings during the course of the semester; these readings will be posted on Moodle.
Grading
Your final grade will be determined by your performance on exams and assignments/quizzes/Discussion Forum posts, which will be weighted approximately as follows:

- Three (3) Midterm Exams: 0 to 70 pts. ea. = 210 points*
- Three (3) in-class/out-of-class assignments: 0 to 10 pts. ea. = 30 points
- Three (3) in-class quizzes: 0 to 10 pts. ea. = 30 points
- Two (2) Discussion Forum Posts: 0 to 10 pts. ea. = 20 points

* We will have three (3) midterm exams on the dates listed below. Failure to follow instructions or any form of cheating on a midterm exam may directly result in a grade of “0” for that exam and a failing grade for the course. **Warning:** There will be questions on the midterm exams that bright and reasonable students will answer incorrectly if they have not been attending class and have not studied the materials.

Total number of possible course points (approximately): 280 points**

** We will have a total of 80 points available among the three (3) in-class/out-of-class assignments, three (3) in-class quizzes, and the two (2) Discussion Forum posts, but you will be allowed/required 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 of certain unscheduled and documented events (such as an illness accompanied by a doctor’s note), 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 the College of Business capstone course (BGEN 499).

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all classes. Some material presented only in class will be on the exams.

Drops
Please keep in mind that the last day to obtain a partial refund for a dropped class is September 17th. The deadline for dropping the class is October 29th. There will be no drops after this date except by petition for explicit circumstances such as a family emergency, accident/illness, or other severe circumstances beyond the student’s control and which are fully documented and acceptable to the instructor. Low grades or their consequences are not acceptable reasons for a petition approval.
**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 Disability Services for Students (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 (http://www.umt.edu/safety/policies/) It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.

**College of Business 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.

**Class and Exam Schedule**

- Monday 9/03
- Wednesday 9/26
- Monday 10/29
- Monday 11/12
- Wednesday 11/21
- Wednesday 12/05
- Labor Day – No Class
- MIDTERM EXAM 1
- MIDTERM EXAM 2
- Veterans Day – No Class
- Student Travel Day – No Class
- MIDTERM EXAM 3

**Mission Statement and Assurance of Learning**

The University of Montana’s College of Business 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 College of Business has adopted the following learning goals for our undergraduate students:

- Learning Goal 1: Graduates will possess fundamental business knowledge.
- Learning Goal 2: Graduates will be able to integrate business knowledge.
- Learning Goal 3: Graduates will be effective communicators.
- Learning Goal 4: Graduates will possess problem solving skills.
- Learning Goal 5: Graduates will have an ethical awareness.
- Learning Goal 6: Graduates will be proficient users of technology.
- Learning Goal 7: Graduates will understand the global business environment in which they operate.