



BMGT 2150

Division: Business and Technology

Department: Business Management

Course: BMGT 2150

Title: Business Ethics

Catalog Description:

This is a thought provoking and challenging course based on the presumption that individuals are moral beings that are confronted with a variety of moral decisions, and that business is a social activity, and, like all social activity, cannot function unless certain moral prerequisites are fulfilled. Some of the topics addressed include the development of business ethics as a study, various moral philosophies, social responsibility, organizational culture and ethical decision making, organizational relationships and conflicts, ethics programs, ethics in a global economy, and business ethics and organizational performance.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Fall

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: N/A

Corequisites: N/A

Justification:

Ethics is an integral part of social activity of which business is a part. Students will be better prepared to understand the dynamics involved in decision making. They need a comprehensive and in-depth exposure to the subject other than interspersed doses of ethics in the Business Management curriculum. Students who graduate, but do not intend to transfer, will be better equipped to handle ethical issues in their career path.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- gain a greater understanding of the relation of business and morality
- be exposed to various levels of moral development
- become more adept at considering moral and social responsibility as they relate to cause and effect in decision making, and in human relations
- better understand the complex ethical issues of our day as they relate to the managing of self, people, workers' rights, discrimination, the firm, the environment, and international/multicultural understanding
- become conversant with the ethical/moral issues involved in business
- identify and see the importance of the origins of such study
- be exposed to various moral philosophies, including but not limited to teleology, deontology, the relativist perspective, virtue ethics, and justice.

Content:

This course includes:

- Introduction
 - Business Ethics Defined
 - The Development of Business Ethics
- Ethical Issues in Business
- Foundations of Ethical Conflict and General Classifications Thereof
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Honesty and Fairness
 - Communications
 - Technology
- Recognizing an Ethical Issue
- Applying Moral Philosophies to Business
- Social Responsibility
- A Framework for Understanding Ethical Decision Making in Business
 - Ethical Issue Intensity
 - Individual Factors: Stages of Cognitive Moral Development
 - Corporate Culture
- The Role of Corporate Culture in Ethical Decision Making
- Relationships and Conflicts in Ethical Decision Making
 - Interpersonal Relationships
 - Role of Opportunity as Contributing to the Creation of Ethical Dilemmas
 - Conflict Resolution
- Improving Ethical Decision Making in Business
- Development of an Effective Ethics Program
 - Managerial Roles
 - Communication of Standards
 - Monitoring and Enforcing
 - Continuous Improvement of the Ethical Compliance Program
 - The Influence of Personal Values in Business Ethics Programs
- Business Ethics in a Global Economy
- Business Ethics and Organizational Performance

General Education Outcomes:

3) Speak effectively in a variety of contexts.

Students will make oral presentations of their findings on case studies with various ethical issues. Students are challenged to verbally express their views of ethical issues. They will orally communicate opposing views of ethical dilemmas.

4) Retrieve, evaluate, interpret, and deliver information through a variety of traditional and electronic media.

Students will gather and analyze a variety of ethical issues as it relates to both individual and business entities. Students will learn to use technology to more effectively gather, evaluate and study the topic material.

8) Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of contexts.

Students will be exposed to some of the difficult ethical scenarios that arise in small business. Students will

learn about managing business ethically and responsibly.

Key Performance Indicators:

- The student should acquire the competencies as described herein upon completion of this course. Several assessment methods will measure competency. Competencies will be weighted. These will determine the equivalent final course grade. The final course grade will reflect the knowledge and the competency level that the student has attained in the term according to the prescribed course standards:
 - reading assignments
 - interactive dialogue in group discussion (class participation)
 - current event analysis
 - evaluation of current event analysis
 - case study presentations as a group
 - individual evaluation of case study presentations
 - quizzes and exams
- Students will gain a broad knowledge of business elements and functions, their roles and how they interact with each other.
- Assessment of student performance in class and outside of class will be determined by:
 - demonstration of knowledge through three quizzes and five exams
 - demonstration of skills through hands on practical exercises such as interactive dialogue, current event analysis, case study presentations and individual evaluation of case study presentations:
 - exams: 50%
 - quizzes: 10%
 - interactive dialogue: 10%
 - current event analysis: 10%
 - case studies: 10%
 - attendance and participation: 10%

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

- Miller and Jentz, *Business Law Today, The Essentials*, current edition, Thomson South-Western.

Optimum Class Size: 24

Maximum Class Size: 32

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Russ Johnson, MIM, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Business Management Department:

Russ Johnson, MIM, Assistant Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Business and Technology Division:

Doug Dyreng, MS, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)