

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA
ETHICS, COMMERCE AND SOCIETY
SCHOOL OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
FALL 2017**

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INSTRUCTOR: Thomas J. Bussen
COURSE TITLE: Ethics, Commerce and Society
CLASS HOURS: Wednesday, 1245-1400 (class one); 1410-1525 (class two);
PHONE: 0773 06 9601; E-MAIL: bussent2@gmail.com
OFFICE: Room 215
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The course follows a clear path. The first several classes focus on building an understanding of ethical and moral concepts that that students can apply in a business context. These classes are not about the instructor telling students what is right or wrong, but, rather, about students enhancing their own ability to evaluate the morality of a given course of action. The subsequent courses apply these ideas to the business organization: first, by exploring ways in which managers can reduce ethical violations within their businesses; and secondly, by understanding why people commit ethical violations against, or in support of, their employers. Finally, this course ends with a brief coverage of corporate social responsibility.

COURSE AIMS

This course aims to provide students with the tools to gain a deeper understanding of their own personal ethics and its application to the business world; as well as an external application of those ideas to the business organization and to the broader society in which businesses operate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Comprehend the main principles affecting of morals and ethics, as applied to business;
- Understand the process for solving ethical dilemmas;
- Identify cultural issues affecting morals and ethics;
- Understand the essential elements of an ethical code of conduct;

- Understand the common rationalizations and justifications made by corporate wrongdoers;
- Understand the role of corporate social responsibility in a successful and ethical business.

ASSESSMENT TASKS/ACTIVITIES

Classes are a combination of lectures and in-class activities. Students are expected to come to classes prepared and ready to discuss the assigned materials. Students may be called on at random to discuss the assigned materials, case or hypothetical, or to perform any other tasks in furtherance of the course objectives. Supplemental assignments will also be provided from time to time, which will allow students to practice the concepts in greater detail.

Students will be assessed based on the quality of their contributions in class, as well as through two quizzes, a mid-term examination and a final paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

1. Class participation includes participation in class that shows the student's preparation for class through either the use of and/or reference to the materials assignment that the student was assigned to read or to prepare prior to class. Class participation also includes presentations as noted in the syllabus.
2. Class attendance is required. For each unexcused absence exceeding two (2) classes, students will receive a 5% deduction from the attendance and participation grade (up to -20%).
3. Students will be on time for every class. Students regularly arriving late to any class will be marked as "absent" for that class period. For each student absence exceeding two (2) classes will receive a 5% deduction from the attendance and participation grade (up to -20%).
4. Students will submit all written assignments and homework on the "due date". The grade for late submissions will be deducted 10% for each day the assignment is late. After ten (10) days, students will be given a grade of "zero" (0) for the assignment. Written assignments may be submitted on the e-course. All due dates are listed at the end of this syllabus.
5. The use of cell phones (talking, texting, etc.) during class is strictly prohibited. Students violating this policy will be given one (1) warning. A second violation of this policy will result in the student being counted absent for the class.
6. The use of any other electronic devices during class for any purpose not related to the furtherance of the class objectives is strictly prohibited. Students violating this policy will be given one (1) warning. A second violation of this policy will result in the student being counted absent for the class.
7. Students are expected to follow the AUCA ACADEMIC HONESTY code. All types of plagiarism are strictly prohibited. If a student fails to observe this requirement, the instructor may assign an "F" for the work or an "F" for the whole class, depending on the type of assignment and relevant circumstances. Students are expected to read and follow the section on the Student Academic Dishonesty of the AUCA Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.

8. This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and the updated version of the written syllabus may be found on the “e-course”. It is each student’s responsibility to stay informed of any changes made.

GRADING POLICY

The final course grade will be determined based on the following components:

Class attendance and participation	20%
Two quizzes	20%
Mid-Term Examination	25%
Final Paper	35%
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>100%</u>

GRADING CRITERIA

A 94-100%	B- 80-83%	D+ 67-69%
A- 90-93%	C+ 77-79%	D 64-66%
B+ 87-89%	C 74-76%	D- 60-63%
B 84-86%	C- 70-73%	Failing Grade: below 60%

EXPLANATION OF GRADES

- A** Student demonstrates exceptional understanding and able to critique existing readings and shows good abilities to connect ideas to broader understanding; Performs well in every aspect of class participation, consistently achieves high marks on graded assessments and submits a final paper at or above expectations.
- B** Ability to think conceptually and to perform in class participations, and in final paper. Student is able to form plausible arguments and provides reasonable conclusions.
- C** Marginal ability to analyze material presented in lectures and readings. While the student has attended class and involved in discussions, performance is merely class average.
- D** Limited ability to analyze material presented in lectures and readings. While the student has attended class and involved in discussions, performance has been below class average.
- F** Poor learning or lack of effort, the student has failed to demonstrate even a minimal capacity to analyze concepts and theories. Misses most classes and performed very poorly

in, or even failed to participate in class discussions. The final paper, if submitted, has been of a poor standard or plagiarized.

UNDERSTANDING THE COURSE SYLLABUS

Below is an outline of the course content. Each class session identifies the general topic to be discussed during that meeting. Required readings and homework will be posted on the "e-course" at least one week prior to class. The "e-course" may also identify "supplemental" readings that, while not required to be read, may be helpful in better understanding a particular topic or may provide a different perspective not discussed in class.

Required readings and homework, if any, are to be completed before the beginning of each class meeting (not after). Each session's lecture and discussion will be based on these materials. In order to understand the day's topic and be better prepared for discussion of the same, you will need to have read the assigned materials and completed the homework assignments.

COURSE CONTENT

Week	Course Topic(s)
1	Introduction to Course & Ethical Dilemmas <i>Assignment: No Homework</i>
2	Introduction to Ethics <i>Assignment: Page 37-top of page 48, Business Law</i>
3	Introduction to Business Ethics: Terms and Dilemmas <i>Assignment: Read Instructor's Note on Ethical Paradigm</i>
4	Culture, Morality and Ethics <i>Assignment: Read Pinto Case Study</i>
5	Quiz #1
6	Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Ethical Compliance Programs <i>Assignment: Read A Firm-Wide Culture of Compliance;</i>
7	Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Ethical Compliance Programs <i>Assignment: Read Instructor's Note on FSGO</i>
8	MIDTERM
9	Fraud and Rationalizations: White-Collar Crime <i>Assignment: 88-99, Compliance Management</i>
10	Fraud and Rationalizations: White-Collar Crime (cont) <i>Assignment: 194-196, Bus, Gov't and Society; 126-131, Bus. Ethics Now; Chinese frauds - http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/02/02/china-jewish-wisdom-ponzi-scheme-frauds/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New%20Campaign&utm_term=*Editors%20Picks</i>
11	Quiz #2
12	Corporate Social Responsibility <i>Assignment: Read Instructor's Note</i>
13	Corporate Social Responsibility

	<i>Assignment: Page 83-84, 189-191, 35 (Q.3).</i>
14	No class. Work on final paper
15	FINAL PAPERS DUE

IMPORTANT DATES

October 4, 2017 - Quiz #1

October 25, 2017 – Mid-term

November 8 – No class (Fall break)

November 15 – Make teams for final paper. At least one member of team notify instructor by email

November 22, 2017 – Quiz #2

November 29, 2017 – Choose topic for final paper

December 6, 2017 – Homework Assignment Due

December 13, 2017 – No Class – Work on Final Paper

December 20, 2017 – Final Paper Due

COURSE MATERIALS

You will be required to read, on a weekly basis, materials distributed in class or via the "e-course". A variety of materials will be used, including informal notes composed by the instructor.