**Professional and Business Ethics**

Ph 330 A01 Fall 2014  
CRN 12509

Instructor: Thomas Heyd, Ph.D.  
Meeting times: TWF 9:30-10:30  
Classroom location: Cornett B135  
Office: Clearihue B309  
Office hours: Tuesday and Friday 12:30-13:20, or by appointment  
Tel. and e-mail: (250) 853 3767, heydt@uvic.ca

**Course description**

In this course we ask key questions about ethics, the professions and business, such as the following:

- What distinguishes the professions from other occupations?
- What makes the professional-client relationship special?
- Can corporations be held ethically responsible?
- What is the basis of corporate social responsibility?
- What responsibilities does business have toward stakeholders that are not shareholders?
- Do businesses have additional responsibilities when operating globally?
- What responsibilities does business have concerning the environment?
- What rights and obligations do employees and employers have?
- Which business practices are fair and just toward customers and others?
- What are the ethical problems of advertising and marketing?
- What is the foundation of property rights and what distribution is legitimate?
- What are social enterprises, and how are they related to the social economy and to cooperative businesses?

To start, principles of ethics relevant to the professions and business will be reviewed. Contrasting viewpoints regarding key ethical problems in the professions and business will be discussed with the help of lectures and class discussions. Throughout the course, practice in the critical consideration of assumptions and arguments with the help of case analysis will be encouraged throughout the course. Overall, the course aims to explore up to what point ethics demands that self-interest and competitive advantage be balanced by collaboration, respect for rights, and the pursuit of the common good.

**Course organisation and student engagement**

**Texts**


**Approach**

Students are responsible for materials covered, and for informing themselves about announcements missed, while absent. Class time will be devoted to presentation of key points on the topics announced, and class to discussion.

**Tips for best performances**

1. Do readings ahead of class periods, and do weekly assignments.
2. Come to class, and constructively participate in class discussion.
3. Speak to the instructor if failing to understand the material.

**Grading**

Participation, including weekly assignments, worth 20%  
Mid-term test, worth 30%  
A final, comprehensive, take-home exam, worth 50%
1. Participation is assessed on the basis of a) regular attendance, b) constructive participation in class discussion, and c) weekly assignments based on the course readings and personal analysis of the issues under discussion. Class attendance will be taken, and is particularly encouraged in the case of guest speakers. Justified absences should be discussed with the instructor ahead of time.

2. The mid-term test covers both readings and lectures. Both understanding and recall of material covered, and reflective analysis, is expected. Test questions will consist of a combination of shorter and longer answer, and possibly some true-false and multiple choice, questions.

3. The final exam will be a comprehensive take-home exam with long as well as short answer questions. Questions will be handed out on the last day of classes, and the completed exam must be brought to the Department of Philosophy no later than 5 days after exam questions hand-out, before 4 p.m. Late exams will NOT be accepted (late exams will receive 0%). Exams also have to be submitted simultaneously through Moodle. Understanding of material covered and reflective analysis will be expected. Answers to questions will be assessed on the basis of the following three criteria: (1) demonstrating knowledge of the material, (2) well-developed discussion of points presented, (3) clarity, neatness, and organisation of points.

Other matters
Numerical and letter grades
Grades are given as percentile marks. The percentile mark for the course is converted to a letter grade in the following manner: A+ = 90 - 100, A = 85 - 89, A- = 80 - 84, B+ = 77 - 79, B = 73 - 76, B- = 70 - 72, C+ = 65 - 69, C = 60 - 64, D = 50 - 59, F = 0 - 49. The A range means exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. The B range means a very good, good and solid performance. The C range means satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory, performance. D indicates merely passable or marginal performance. F indicates unsatisfactory performance.

Late assignments
Late assignments will not be accepted (they will be worth 0) and exams will not be rescheduled. If a test is missed for significant reasons of a medical sort (provide medical certificate), or for other serious, documented personal reasons, arrangements will be made to accommodate the student within reason (a make-up may be scheduled). Documented evidence for having legitimately missed an exam and an explanatory statement in writing have to be received no more than ten days after the deadline or exam missed.

Plagiarism and other policies
Academic honesty will be expected in this course. Plagiarism (e.g. copying from others or working together on the take-home exam) may lead to dismissal from the course and the university. Any matters not covered in this handout will be handled in accordance with University and Department policies.

Transition and inclusivity/diversity
New students needing assistance may contact the Transition Office, www.uvic.ca/transition. This course is committed to inclusivity and diversity, in line with University Senate policy (1999) that “UVic is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.”

Schedule of lectures and tests
This schedule is subject to change. Weekly reading assignments will be confirmed during class periods. (Selected readings will be dropped later in the semester to lighten the load.) Readings are from the course textbook or to be downloaded from Moodle, unless otherwise indicated.

Week 1
3-7 Sept  Course introduction, approaches to ethics
Readings: Preliminaries and Foundational Issues, sections 1-2

Week 2
8-14 Sept  Approaches to ethics continued
Readings: Sections 4-7; skip reading 3 and replace by Onora O’Neill, “A Simplified Account of Kant’s Ethics” (Moodle)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings to be downloaded from Moodle: Bayles and Hughes, “The Professions”, and Bayles, “The Professional-Client Relationship”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The professions and the professional-client relationship</td>
<td>19 Sept Last day for adding courses</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Are corporations persons? and Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
<td>19 Sept Last day for adding courses</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Globalisation and Review</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>MID-TERM EXAM and Environmental responsibility</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Whistleblowing and safety in the workplace</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Drug testing and affirmative action</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sexual harassment and bluffing</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Bribery and exploitation and advertising</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>READING DAYS 10-12 November</td>
<td>19 Sept Last day for adding courses</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Distributive justice</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>The social economy, cooperatives, and Course Experience Survey</td>
<td>19 Sept Last day for adding courses</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Review and Final Exam Handout</td>
<td>19 Sept Last day for adding courses</td>
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