Professional and Business Ethics
Ph 330 A01 Spring 2015
CRN 22360

Instructor Thomas Heyd, Ph.D.
Meeting times TWF 11:30-12:30
Classroom location Cornett B135
Office Clearihue B309
Office hours Tue 2:30-3:20, Fri 4:00-4:50, or by appointment
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Course description
The aim of this course is to equip students with conceptual tools that may enhance their capacity to make ethical assessments of morally problematic issues, which arise in the professions and business. The course begins with a brief overview of ethical theories. Next, the application of these theories to the particular contexts generated by the professions and business is considered. The course concludes with a short exploration of the potential that alternative models of business organisation, such as cooperatives, social enterprises, fair trade and ethical sourcing, may offer to a multiplicity of stakeholders. Practice in the critical consideration of assumptions and arguments, with the help of case analysis, will be strongly encouraged throughout the course.

Questions considered in the course include the following:

- What distinguishes the professions from other occupations?
- What makes the professional-client relationship special?
- Ethically, should corporations be considered persons?
- What is the basis of corporate social responsibility?
- What responsibilities does business have toward stakeholders that are not shareholders?
- Why are whistleblowers important and when is it ethically alright to blow the whistle?
- Do businesses have additional responsibilities when operating globally?
- What ethical responsibilities does business have concerning the environment?
- When is sustainability more than a greenwashing catchphrase?
- Who is responsible for the safety of the product, of the employees, and of customers?
- What are the ethical problems of advertising and targeting?
- What is the foundation of property rights?
- How are work and private property related in the real world?
- What is the social economy, and what are the benefits of cooperative businesses?
- Why is fair trade fair? What makes ethical sourcing ethical?

Texts

Course organisation and student engagement
Assigned weekly readings need to be done ahead of class lectures. Attendance during class periods, constructive participation, and tolerance with regard to the views of others will be expected. Students are responsible for materials covered, and for informing themselves about announcements missed if absent. Weekly class time will be devoted to brief presentation of key points from the material assigned and to class discussion. Attendance, constructive engagement, and performance of weekly assignments all contribute to the participation grade credit.

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 3:30 p.m. Late exams will NOT be accepted (late exams will receive 0%). Exams also have to be submitted simultaneously through Coursespaces. 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 will be given as percentile marks, which are equivalent to letter grades 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.

Course Experience Survey (CES)
Towards the end of term students have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding their learning experience. It is intended to provide feedback to the university regarding the course and my teaching. In the last two weeks of classes, you will receive an e-mail about this. If you do not receive such an invitation, you can go directly to http://ces.uvic.ca. Class time will be set aside to do the CES.

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. Readings are from the course textbook or to be downloaded from Coursespaces, unless otherwise indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5-11 Jan</td>
<td>Course introduction, approaches to ethics</td>
<td>Readings: Preliminaries and Foundational Issues, sections 1-2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>12-18 Jan</td>
<td>Approaches to ethics continued</td>
<td>Readings: Sections 4-7 (Manning, Brown, Glatz, Meeler); skip reading 3 and replace by Onora O’Neill, “A Simplified Account of Kant’s Ethics” (Coursespaces)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>19-25 Jan</td>
<td>The professions and the professional-client relationship</td>
<td>Readings: Bayles &amp; Hughes, “The Professions”, and Bayles, “The Professional-Client Relationship” (Coursespaces) <em>21 Jan, last day for adding courses</em></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>26 Jan – 1 Feb</td>
<td>Are corporations persons? and Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
<td>Required readings: Vaidya introduction, Friedman (65-), Freeman (69-) Recommended optional reading: French, “The Corporation as a Moral Person” (Coursespaces) CASE: Dakha Fire</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2-8 Feb</td>
<td>Globalisation, Review and MID-TERM EXAM</td>
<td>Readings: Donaldson (170-)<strong>Mid-term in-class test on the last day of the week, 6th of February</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9-15 Feb</td>
<td>READING WEEK</td>
<td>No new readings, no assignments</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>16-22 Feb</td>
<td>Environmental responsibility</td>
<td>Readings: Heyd, Dyllick (both on Coursespaces) CASE: Fashion, people and the environment</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>23 Feb – 1 Mar</td>
<td>Whistleblowing and safety in the workplace</td>
<td>Readings: DeGeorge (267-), Larmer (274-), Duska (Coursespaces) CASE: Westray Mine Disaster</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>2-8 Mar</td>
<td>Bribery, affirmative action and sexual harassment</td>
<td>Readings: Fadiman (447-), Dimock and Tucker (Coursespaces), and Superson (366-) <em>28 February: Last day for withdrawing from courses without penalty of failure</em></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>9-15 Mar</td>
<td>Bluffing and advertising / targetting of products</td>
<td>Readings: Carr (400-), Allhoff (432-), TBA (Coursespaces), L. Sharp Paine (615-)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>16-22 Mar</td>
<td>Distributive justice</td>
<td>Readings: Selections Locke (475-482), Smith (487-490), Marx (490-497)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>23-29 Mar</td>
<td>The social economy, cooperatives, and Course Experience Survey</td>
<td>GUEST SPEAKERS: Bill and Lorna from Hemp and Company, and Murdith McLean, Ph.D. Readings: Peredo and McLean (Coursespaces)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>30 Mar – 5 Apr</td>
<td>Review and summary-conclusion</td>
<td><strong>1 April: last Day of Classes. Final take-home exam questions handed out</strong> <strong>6th April before 3:30 p.m., final exam submission (hardcopy AND on Coursespaces)</strong></td>
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