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MGMT 341-102: Ethics in Business (Lecture) - Spring 2014  
MWF 11:30 – 12:20 Corboy Law Center Room 306

Catalog Description

Requirement: PHIL 130 for students admitted to Loyola University for Fall 2012 or later. No requirement for students admitted to Loyola prior to Fall 2012 or those with a declared major or minor in the Department of Philosophy or Department of Political Science.

Prerequisites: Junior Standing; minimum grade of "C-" in MGMT 201 and ECON 202.

This course focuses on ethical issues in the world of business and commerce. This course will address a number of interrelated questions: What are the rights and obligations of business in society? Can businesses "do good" and "do well"? Is business ethics a viable goal or an unachievable ideal?

Notes

MGMT 341 is not open to students who have completed PHIL 185 or PHIL 283. MGMT 341 does not fulfill Management major or minor requirements.

Course Overview

This course will examine the problems and contradictions that often arise in the sphere of business and social policy through the lens of several key ethical and political thinkers. We will focus on the problems of dignity, responsibility, trust, and communication in their specifically liberal-capitalist inflection. Within this focus, we will pay special attention to the implications that the ethical and political-economic categories one finds in the respective corpora of Locke, Kant, Mill, Friedman, Smith, and Marx have for us as managers, employers, citizens, and individuals. Students will be required to consider both abstract philosophical problems such as “what is employment?” or “what is law?” as well as case studies exemplifying the ethically complex situations that often confront managers and directors. The class will involve weekly lectures, but we will also make considerable use of group-activities and collaborative learning methods.
Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically discuss (via well-grounded arguments) philosophical issues and questions from the perspective of multiple methods, traditions, and historical contexts.
2. Evaluate philosophical issues, questions, and problems critically and analytically.
3. Write an articulate and well-argued essay presenting philosophical positions in a way that addresses philosophical issues and questions.
4. Formulate and evaluate their own understanding of a diverse range of philosophical problems, in both writing and discussion.
5. Integrate a critical understanding of central philosophical ideas from the history of philosophy (broadly construed to include more than the Western traditions).

Required Materials (available in the bookstore)


*Case studies available here: [https://cb.hbsp.harvard.edu/cbmp/access/23631628]*

***The remainder of the required texts will be made available on Sakai***

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Your grade in this class will be determined via the following evaluative apparatuses:

Midterm Exam (30%)
Final Exam (30%)
Group Activities (25%)
   · In-class Presentations/Written Reflections [15%]
   · Peer Evaluation [10%]
Attendance and Participation (15%)

Midterm and Final Exams

Your exams will be take-home, and I will hand out the questions for both exams in advance. There will be two questions, and you will have to respond to each in at least three and no more than four pages. Exams that are either too long or too short will not be accepted. Additionally, you will be required to submit your first response in draft before the actual due date (see reading schedule for due dates). I will then grade it, return it to you, and ask you to resubmit it for a second grade along with your response to the second question. This will allow us to talk in private about Kant, if need be, since his work is as difficult as it is important to our considerations.
Formatting Guidelines (for Take-Home Exam)

The formatting guidelines for your exams and papers are as follows:

- type-written in 12 pt. Times New Roman font
- double-spaced
- have 1 inch top and bottom and 1.25 inch left and right margins
- written on 8.5x11 inch paper
- stapled

We will talk at length about how to write a philosophical paper in class well before your paper is due, and I will hold extra office hours to give you more time to come and meet with me individually if you so desire.

Group Work

Each of you will be assigned to a group at the outset of the course for the purpose of group activities. Each group will be required to introduce the class to a specific set of problems, questions, or issues that arise in each of the case studies we will be reading this quarter. At the conclusion of the discussion, each individual member of the group will be required to write a 2-3 page reflection on the content presented in class to be submitted to me one week later as part of your grade. This reflection will be your opportunity to emphasize the elements of the material we’ve covered thus far that you feel to be the most important to the larger narrative of the class. In other words, I want you to reflect on how the materials we have covered contribute a larger consideration of how to conduct oneself ethically in the world of business. In addition, your reflection must:

- consider both the theoretical texts and the details of case study
- quote the philosophical works covered in the previous week at least four times
- quote case study as often as necessary
- conform to the formatting guidelines stipulated above

You will only submit one reflection for the whole semester. To be very clear, I will not accept any reflection that does not conform to these standards or that falls short of the minimum page length.

The purpose of these activities is simply to facilitate discussion while also giving you a chance to exercise your own judgment in reviewing a particular case. You will therefore be graded both on your ability to work well with others and contribute to a discussion of difficult ideas as well as on the depth, clarity, and overall quality of your insight into the case studies and philosophical works at hand. Each member of each group will therefore fill out an evaluation of all other members of the group to be submitted to me at the conclusion of the course. Your average group evaluation grade will then make up part of your group activities grade for the course.

Grading Rubric

A  Displays a thorough understanding of the expectations of the assignment and a nuanced understanding of the text under discussion. Has outstanding argumentation, organization, and writing (grammar, vocabulary, etc.). Contains only minor mistakes, and is clearly above expectations.

B  Shows above average understanding of the issues, but is not as creative or organized as the A paper. Has a thorough recapitulation of the text (that is, no glaring interpretative errors that expressly contradict the author’s intentions) and adequate argumentation,
organization, and writing, including few mistakes.

C  Exhibits basic understanding, marked by one or two interpretative errors or misreadings. Uses confused and disorganized writing that may address a lot of information, but does not thematize or critically evaluate it.

D  Attempts a very basic grasp of the material, yet is riddled with glaring errors thematic, grammatical, and typographical. Misspells the names of the philosophers, and does not even attempt to cite the text.

F  Presents no comprehension of the material and/or is utterly incomprehensible. Possibly takes the form of free verse, or is entirely visual in nature, and thus does not show signs of the rationality that has been constructed through the history of Western Society. Although possibly a valid artistic statement, it is yet unacceptable in this context.

Quinlan School of Business Policies:

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory, and I will take attendance every day. You each get one free absence before I begin to deduct from your final grade. **If you must miss class for some reason, you must contact me in advance.** Otherwise I will consider the absence unexcused.

Academic Integrity

All members of the Quinlan School shall refrain from academic dishonesty and misconduct in all forms, including plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation, fabrication, and falsehood...Plagiarism or cheating on the part of the student in individual or group academic work or in examination behavior will result minimally in the instructor assigning the grade of “F” for the assignment or examination. In addition, all instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the chairperson of the department involved.


Class by Class/Week by Week Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Number &amp; Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Assignment/Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) 1/13 Monday</td>
<td>Intro/Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) 1/15 Wednesday</td>
<td>Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) 1/17 Friday</td>
<td>Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Week 2**
4) 1/20 Monday: Kant, *Groundwork* [Chapter 1]
5) 1/22 Wednesday: Kant, *Groundwork* [Chapter 1]
6) 1/24 Friday: Kant, *Groundwork* [Chapter 2]

**Week 3**
7) 1/27 Monday: Kant, *Groundwork* [Chapter 2]
8) 1/29 Wednesday: Kant, *Groundwork* [Chapter 2]
9) 1/31 Friday: Case Study, “Fire in a Bangladesh Garment Factory”

**Week 4**
10) 2/3 Monday: Locke, *Second Treatise* [Chapter 5]
11) 2/5 Wednesday: Locke, *Second Treatise* [Chapter 5]
12) 2/7 Friday: Locke, *Second Treatise* [Chapter 5]

**FIRST DRAFT OF QUESTION ONE OF MIDTERM EXAM DUE IN CLASS ON MONDAY, 2/3/14**

**Week 5**
13) 2/10 Monday: Locke, *Second Treatise* [Chapter 5 and Chapter 9]
14) 2/12 Wednesday: Locke, *Second Treatise* [Chapter 9]
15) 2/14 Friday: Locke, *Second Treatise* [Chapter 9]

**Week 6**
16) 2/17 Monday: Werhane, *Employment* [Chapter 4]
17) 2/19 Wednesday: Werhane, *Employment* [Chapter 4]
18) 2/21 Friday: Case Study, “Employment Vignettes”

**Week 7**
19) 2/24 Monday: Mill, *Utilitarianism* (in *Basic Writings*) [Chapter 2]
20) 2/26 Wednesday: Mill, *Utilitarianism* (in *Basic Writings*) [Chapter 2]
21) 2/28 Friday: Mill, *Utilitarianism* (in *Basic Writings*) [Chapter 3]

**TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE IN CLASS ON FRIDAY, 2/28/14**

**Week 8**
22) 3/3 Monday: NO CLASS
23) 3/5 Wednesday: NO CLASS
24) 3/7 Friday: NO CLASS

**Week 9**
25) 3/10 Monday: Mill, *Utilitarianism* (in *Basic Writings*) [Chapter 3]
26) 3/12 Wednesday: Mill, *Utilitarianism* (in *Basic Writings*) [Chapter 3 and Chapter 5]
27) 3/14 Friday: Mill, *Utilitarianism* (in *Basic Writings*) [Chapter 5]

**Week 10**
29) 3/19 Wednesday: Case Study, “Mary Kay Cosmetics”
30) 3/21 Friday: Friedman, “The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits”

**Week 11**
31) 3/24 Monday Friedman, “The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits”
32) 3/26 Wednesday Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments (in Essential Writings) [pp. 65 – 77]
33) 3/28 Friday Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments (in Essential Writings) [pp. 65 – 77]

Week 12
34) 3/31 Monday Smith, Theory of Moral Sentiments (in Essential Writings) [pp. 100 – 109; 143 - 145]
35) 4/2 Wednesday Smith, Wealth of Nations, Vol. 1 [pp. 159 - 172]
36) 4/4 Friday Smith, Wealth of Nations, Vol. 1 [pp. 159 - 172]

Week 13
39) 4/11 Friday Marx, “Estranged Labor”

Week 14
40) 4/14 Monday Marx, “Estranged Labor”
41) 4/16 Wednesday FILM – Charlie Chaplin, Modern Times
42) 4/18 Friday NO CLASS – Easter Holiday

****QUESTION ONE OF FINAL EXAM DUE MONDAY 4/14 IN CLASS****

Week 15
43) 4/21 Monday NO CLASS – Easter Holiday
44) 4/23 Wednesday Marx, “Estranged Labor”
45) 4/25 Friday Case Study, “Automating the Paris Subway”

FINAL EXAM DUE: Tuesday, May 6, 2014 no later than 12pm in my mailbox

Final note: The syllabus is subject to change at my discretion, but I would also like to hear your input. If you have any ideas about other things we might read or discuss, feel free to send me an email, or bring them up in class.