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?

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

METHOD

- We will begin by discussing general ethical issues in business cultures and then situate the activity of business within the general market system. This will help us anchor our subsequent discussions in the appropriate milieu and to understand the “rules” and parameters by which the “game” of business is played.
- In order to build a solid foundation from which to address particular moral issues as they arise in business, and in order to enhance your ability to engage in ethical decision-making, we will then discuss major approaches to normative ethics. This component also includes an examination of the business career as a vocation and the contours of ethical leadership. Thus, in addition to the application of ethical principles to a career in business and business activity, we will think hard about basic questions of virtue, integrity, and character.
- Given the tools for ethical decision-making now at our disposal, we will then look more specifically at some traditional issues in business ethics, including corporate governance and corporate accountability, corporate ethics programs, whistle-blowing, the nature of employment and employment rights, and corporate social responsibility.
OUTCOMES

There are a number of outcomes that this course intends for each of you. The most important outcome is your growth as a student of business, realized by this opportunity to take time to think critically and reflect upon what it means to flourish in an ethical manner. This course is NOT designed to hand you a specific body of knowledge that can enable you to earn easy money. (Of course, if it does do that for you, kudos!) Rather, this course is intended to help you to think hard about the very questions that define who you are as a person. A person, in this case, who will enter into the business world and who will make decisions that will affect yourself and others on a daily basis as part of your career. In general, my hope is that you leave this class with some ability to utilize more sophisticated reasoning— informed by philosophical study—in your everyday thinking about those decisions you make in your career in business. Specifically, there are a number of additional skills that this course intends for you, including your ability to:

1. Analyze and employ individual and organizational factors in ethical leadership and ethical decision-making.
2. Create persuasive and well-reasoned arguments; develop critical thinking skills.
3. Communicate with an awareness of audience, using language appropriate to that audience.
4. Analyze texts and problems using a point-of-view informed by the critical perspective appropriate to our discipline.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance:
It is essential that you be present for every class. Much of the material you will need for successfully completing your exams and other assignments will come from class lectures and will not be found just in the readings. Realizing, however, that you may have occasional need to be absent, you are allowed four absences without penalty. Only emergencies and serious illnesses will excuse you from that penalty. (I do require documentation for such absences, such as funeral notices, doctor’s notes, jury duty, etc.) Sniffles, upset tummies, headaches, work-related absences, family gatherings, and hangovers are not excusable absences (that’s why I allow you four “freebies”).

Attendance is worth ten points. For each class you miss after the four you are allotted, I will deduct two points. If you miss six classes beyond the four you are allotted, you automatically fail the course. Please note that good attendance is an easy way to earn a substantial number of points toward your final grade—so take advantage! Also note that you are responsible for making up any lost work if you miss class. I will not hunt you down: this is your responsibility.

A class is only as good as its participants—and that includes me AND you! Trust me: this semester will be boring if you do not come prepared and ready to participate! Though I want you to learn in our class, I also want you to enjoy yourselves. Though there are currently no plans to offer bonus assignments, I may decide to offer one as the semester progresses. Additionally, students who attend class regularly and participate in class conversations in a respectful, helpful, and educated manner are always candidates for grade bumps at the end of the semester, should I deem them worthy. (This would happen in the case of barely making the higher grade. For example, if your grade worked out to be a B- on the cusp of a B, I could exercise my right to bump your grade to a B if you were a student who put in a great deal of effort throughout the semester. This is a purely discretionary act on my behalf, however: no student may claim he/she is entitled to such a grade bump and it is not open to debate.)
Exams:
There will be three examinations. Your first two will be in-class; the final will be during finals week. I do not give make-up exams (unless there is a serious and documented reason), but I do like puppies, tapas, alternative music, and opera. Each exam is worth thirty points.

Grading Total:
Attendance (10) + Exams (3 at 30 each=90) = 100 points

Grade Distribution:
A: 94-100  B-: 80-82  D+: 67-69
A-: 90-93   C+: 77-79  D: 63-66
B+: 87-89   C: 73-76  D-: 60-62
B: 83-86   C-: 70-72  F: 59 or below

Other Assignments:
I reserve the right to add additional assignments and to change the syllabus. Ample notice will be given.

REQUIRED READINGS
Readings will be found on Sakai (marked as “Sakai” on the syllabus), as hand-outs, in the books you are required to purchase, or through the links on your syllabus. The book available to you via the Bookstore or through your favored vendor is:


EXTRA MATTER

Email and Sakai:
Though I will hand out assignments and study guides in class, I will also post them in Sakai. Thus, if you have missed class when I have handed things out, but there is an assignment you know will be due, then, by all means, check Sakai for it. Also, check your email regularly. If I have to cancel class or make a change to the syllabus, that’s most likely how I will let you know.

Technology in the Classroom:
Lately cellphones, Facebook, Twitter, and other online distractions have become real problems in classrooms. For this reason, should I catch any student playing on his or her phone or laptop during class (texting, Facebook, Twitter, etc.), that student will be asked to leave. I will allow laptops/tablets only for note taking. Also, please remember to turn your phones to silent/vibrate before class begins.

Statement on Plagiarism:
Plagiarism on the part of a student in academic work or dishonest 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. The chairperson may constitute a hearing board to consider the imposition of sanctions in addition to those imposed by the instructor, including a recommendation of expulsion, depending upon the seriousness of the misconduct.

For further information about expectations for academic integrity and sanctions for violations, consult the complete Quinlan School of Business Honor Code and Statement of Academic
Integrity on the Quinlan website:

**Lateness:**
Class begins at the announced time. Please realize that tardiness disrupts the class and does a disservice to your fellow students. I understand that there are occasional reasons to be late, but perpetual tardiness can result in harsher penalties, such as loss of points on your attendance grade. If you are significantly late, you will not receive attendance credit.

**Etiquette:**
You are expected to act as responsible adults inside and outside the classroom. This means that your behavior in the classroom will be professional, courteous, and respectful of me and of your colleagues. Additionally, this means you should present yourself appropriately in email correspondence and in in-person meetings. Also, please make sure to include, in any email correspondence to me, your full name, course number, and course section. Any bad behavior in the classroom will lead to your dismissal from the classroom and you will not receive credit for the day. Additionally, check your Loyola email regularly. I will contact you via email and Sakai with announcements and information; make sure you are staying on top of things!

**Grammar, Style, and Penmanship:**
Bad writing can sink your grades and ruin your papers! If I cannot understand the arguments you are attempting to present because I am too distracted by poor grammar, misspelled words, or just bad style, your grades will suffer. Additionally, if I cannot decipher what you are writing because of your penmanship, this also will hurt your grades. Take this as a lesson for your future success: prospective employers will not take kindly to errors in your résumé or cover letters; your actual employers will not suffer mistakes in the work that you do, and your teachers cannot ignore poorly written papers.

What can you do about it? Good writers are not born that way. It takes a lot of practice. There are lots of things that can help you, though. First, consult writing and style guides, like Kate Turabian’s *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. This is a great source for the rules of writing. Also, have your friends or roommates read your papers. A fresh pair of eyes can catch many mistakes that you’ll be prone to skip over when you reread your own papers. Avail yourself of the Writing Center—there are people in this world trained to help you, too! Finally, read your papers out loud before handing them in for your teacher. If you find yourself having to pause because your sentences are very long, but your paper doesn’t have any punctuation indicating a pause, that’s a good sign that your writing needs revision.

**Special Issues:**
Any students with documented needs will be accommodated as required.

**FINAL NOTE**
I want you all to succeed. And I want you to want to succeed. Throughout the semester I will ask for feedback to help improve the class. Do not be shy about asking for help or clarification, either. You are here to learn; I am here to help you learn. Ultimately, my success as your teacher depends on your growing in knowledge. So do not hesitate to let me know how I can help you become a better student and a better (future) businessperson.
COURSE SCHEDULE:
Please note that this schedule is specifically designed to provide us with flexibility. There may be times where I need to adjust readings or assignments. If that is the case, I will do my best to give you ample notice. Make sure you check your email for updates from me regarding such things! Additionally, many of the readings listed below are available on the Internet, so if I have provided you a link that doesn’t work or a file that won’t open, try doing a Google search first before despairing!

*Introduction to Ethics & The World of Business*

**Week 1:**
- **Mon** August 25: *Introduction of Class*
- **Wed** August 27: *Relativism, Egoism & Caring about Others*
  - Plato, “Ring of Gyges” (from the *Republic*) (Sakai)
  - David Schmidtz, “Reasons for Altruism” (Sakai)
- **Fri** August 29: *Relativism, Egoism & Caring about Others, ctd.*

**Week 2:**
- **Mon** September 1: *No class, Labor Day*
- **Wed** September 3: *Culture of (Un)Ethics*
  - In-class film (no reading)
- **Fri** September 5: *Culture of (Un)Ethics, ctd.*
  - In-class film (no reading)

**Week 3:**
- **Mon** September 8: *Culture of (Un)Ethics*
  - Class Discussion (no reading)
- **Wed** September 10: *Introduction to Ethics*
  - Boatright text, chapter 1 (including cases)
  - Bowen McCoy, “Parable of the Sadhu” (Sakai)
- **Fri** September 12: *Introduction to Ethics, ctd.*
  - Case discussion; re-read cases 1.1-1.4

**Week 4:**
- **Mon** September 15: *The New World of Business*
  - Case discussion, ctd.
  - In-class film
- **Wed** September 17: *The New World of Business, ctd.*
  - Andrew Carnegie, “Wealth” (Sakai)
  - Charles Handy, “What’s a Business For?” (Sakai)
  - Edmund Phelps, “Economic Justice and the Spirit of Innovation” (Sakai)
**Business Leadership, Ethical Decision-Making & Business as a Calling**

### Week 5:

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<th>Reading and Notes</th>
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| Mon  | September 22| *Ethics & General Principles of Business Leadership*  
  - Boatright text, chapter 2, including cases 2.1 & 2.2 |
| Wed  | September 24| **Utilitarianism**  
  - Boatright text, chapter 3; pp. 50-56; cases 3.2 & 3.3 |
| Fri  | September 26| **Utilitarianism, ctd.** |

### Week 6:

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| Mon  | September 29| **Kantian Deontology**  
  - Boatright text, chapter 3; pp. 56-58; cases 3.4 & 3.5 |
| Wed  | October 1   | **Virtue Ethics**  
  - Boatright text, chapter 3; pp. 58-60 |
| Fri  | October 3   | **Virtue Ethics, ctd.** |

### Week 7:

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>No class, Fall Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>No class</td>
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### Week 8:

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Case discussion, reread cases 2.1, 2.2; 3.2-3.5</td>
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| Wed  | October 15  | **Vocations in Business**  
  - Robert M. Adams, “A Conception of Vocation” (from  
    *Finite and Infinite Goods*) (Sakai)  
  - Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace: “Vocation of the  
    Business Leader” (Sakai; easily searchable online, too) |
| Fri  | October 17  | **Vocations in Business, ctd.** |

### Week 9:

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>October 20</td>
<td><strong>Catch-up &amp; Review</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td><strong>Catch-up &amp; Review, ctd.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>October 24</td>
<td><strong>First Exam</strong></td>
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**Issues in Business Ethics: Whistleblowing & Employment Rights**

**Week 10:**

**Mon October 27:**  
Whistleblowing  
- Boatright text, chapter 4 (including cases 4.1-4.3)  
- Plato, *Crito*  
Available online at:  
[http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html)  
- WSJ “Serial Whistleblowers” Article (Sakai)

**Wed October 29:**  
Employment Rights  
- Boatright text, chapter 8; pp. 163-179 (including case 8.1)

**Fri October 31:**  
Employment Rights, ctd.

**Week 11:**

**Mon November 3:**  
Employment Rights, ctd.  
- Boatright text, chapter 8; pp. 179-189 (including cases 8.2-8.3)  
- Tyler Cowen, “Nice work if you can get it” (Sakai)  
- Tyler Cowen, “A Contrarian Look at Whether U.S. Chief Executives are Overpaid” (Sakai)

**Wed November 5:**  
Case discussion; reread cases 4.1-4.3 & 8.1-8.3

**Fri November 7:**  
Case discussion, ctd.

**Week 12:**

**Mon November 10:**  
Catch-Up & Review

**Wed November 12**  
Catch-Up & Review, ctd.

**Fri November 14:**  
Second Exam

**Issues in Business Ethics: Corporate Governance & Corporate Social Responsibility**

**Week 13:**

**Mon November 17:**  
Corporate Governance and Corporate Ethics  
- Boatright text, chapter 13; pp. 299-316 (including cases 13.1 & 13.2)

**Wed November 19:**  
Corporate Accountability  
- Boatright text, chapter 13; pp. 316-326 (including cases 13.3 & 13.4)

**Fri November 21:**  
Corporate Accountability, ctd.
**Week 14:**

**Mon** November 24:  
*The Case for and against CSR*
- Boatright text, chapter 12 (including cases 12.1 & 12.2)
- Milton Friedman, “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits” (Sakai)
- Friedman, Mackey, and Rodgers, “Rethinking the Social Responsibility of Business” (Sakai)

**Wed** November 26:  
No class; Thanksgiving Break

**Week 15:**

**Mon** December 1:  
Case discussion; re-read cases 12.1; 12.2; 13.1-13.4

**Wed** December 3:  
Catch-up & Review

**Fri** December 5:  
Review & Evaluations

**FINAL EXAM***:

Section 104: Saturday, December 13, 1-3 pm
Section 102: Monday, December 8, 9-11 am

*A make-up final examination may be scheduled only with the permission of the appropriate Quinlan Assistant or Associate Dean.*
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MGMT 341: Ethics in Business

Loyola University Chicago, Quinlan School of Business

By signing this agreement, I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agreed to the requirements of the syllabus for the course “Ethics in Business,” Fall 2014, taught by Dr. Gregory Wolcott.

Name (printed): ___________________________ Section: ______

Signature: _______________________________ Date: ______

This MOU must be signed to participate in the class! After signing, please detach it and hand it to your professor.