MGMT 341-104 – Ethics in Business
MWF: 1:40-2:30
Corboy Law Center - Room 321
Autumn 2018

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Office Location: Schreiber 505E
Office Hours: Fridays 2:30-4pm & by appointment

Course Description:

This course will pursue the subject of business ethics from social and philosophical perspectives of the ‘good life’ rather from that of the everyday concerns of business. Nevertheless, all of the authors we will read have commerce and business among their central concerns. By reading these texts, we will be able to grasp the assumptions, the historical conditions, and implications of the question: Can businesses “do good” and “do well”?

Our guiding orientation will consider the relationships between human activity, work, and leisure with an emphasis on the question of the good life. Many of our basic assumptions about the meanings of these concepts and their relations will be called into question as we come to understand that they are neither straight-forward nor self-explanatory. Indeed, the theme of human activity, work, and leisure recurs in much of Western tradition’s efforts to understand, theorize and critique the institutions and practices that make up our collective human life. Our study of some of these efforts will suggest that questions of ‘what to do’ and ‘how to live’ are inseparable from a thorough grasp of our social and economic conditions. To pursue this thread, we will read selections from foundational thinkers in the study of philosophy, economy, society, and politics including Aristotle, Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Thorstein Veblen.

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

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 Format:

The form of the course will consist of lectures along with some class discussion and group presentations. In addition to a significant group presentation requirement, there will be an in-class midterm and a take-home final.
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. Articulate and argue complex issues and positions in written form.
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 some of the central philosophical issues from the Western Tradition with foundational and sophisticated accounts of social and economic life.

Required Materials

Some of our readings will be posted to Sakai. You are responsible to acquire the following texts which should be available at campus bookstore. You must use these editions. Used copies can be easily found online by searching by ISBN [https://www.bookfinder.com/](https://www.bookfinder.com/)

Listed in the order in which they are needed:


Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

- Your grade in this class will be determined in the following way:
  - Attendance 10%
  - Group Presentations 30%
  - Midterm 30%
  - Final Exam 30%
  - 100%

Exams

The midterm will be completed in-class (Wed. 10/17) and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam will be a take-home with short answers and short essay questions. More details will be provided near the dates they are assigned (see schedule).
**Attendance**
Class attendance is mandatory and essential to the value of the learning experience. Students are expected to attend all class sessions in order to pass the course. Missing more than 20% of scheduled classes severely jeopardizes the student’s ability to pass the course.

In the event unavoidable emergencies or conflicts prevent you from attending class, you must notify the instructor and program director by e-mail prior to missing the class, and request options for covering missed material. Most of the subjects in a course are sequential. Therefore, it is important to understand the material covered in the missed class before the next class.

**Class meetings**
To minimize distractions, laptops, tablets, and smart phones must be closed during class unless you have a documented disability or are officially employed as a Peer Note Taker by [Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD)](#) to take notes for students with disabilities. In either case, email me with the information as soon as possible.

**Group Presentations**
Everyone will give an in-class presentation as part of a 3-5 person group. These presentations will each occupy one of our 50-minute sessions on the dates indicated in the reading schedule. Detailed instructions will be posted to Sakai. Please sign up for a group as soon as possible. Getting in contact and meeting with your group is your responsibility.

**Grading Scale:**

- A 100-93%
- A- 92-90
- B+ 89-87
- B 86-83
- B- 82-80
- C+ 79-77
- C 76-73
- C- 72-70
- D+ 69-67
- D 66-60
- F 59 and below

**Grading Rubric for Assignments**

A. Displays a thorough understanding of the expectations of the assignment and a nuanced understanding of the material with excellent use of quotations and citations. Contains outstanding argumentation, organization, and clarity of writing. Contains only minor mistakes.

B. Demonstrates an average yet more or less solid understanding of the material but is not as clear, creative or well-organized as it could have been. Provides adequate argumentation, organization, and writing with good use of evidence from the texts. May include a few mistakes.

C. Exhibits some understanding, marked by a few yet significant interpretative errors or misunderstandings. Confusing and/or disorganized writing or presentation that may include
relevant information but lacks cohesion in structure and argument. Inadequate citations or references.

D. Attempts a very rudimentary grasp of a few aspects of the material yet is riddled with glaring thematic, grammatical, and typographical errors. Little to no citation or references.

F. Presents almost no comprehension of the material and/or is incomprehensible.

Make-Up Examinations/Assignments

Loyola University academic policy provides that tests or examinations may be given during the semester or summer sessions as often as deemed advisable by the instructor. Because Quinlan faculty believe examinations represent a critical component of student learning, required examinations should be taken during the regularly scheduled class period. **Make-up examinations are discouraged.** Exceptions may be granted only by the faculty member or department chair, and only for unavoidable circumstances (illness verified by a signed physician’s note, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, or religious observance).

**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.

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:  

**Please note:** This class may occasionally deviate from the course outlined above and the reading schedule below. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as needed to the course syllabus.
READING THEMES & SCHEDULE  
(Readings marked with * are on reserve via Sakai)

I.  Happiness & Economy

Week 1 – 8/27-8/31  
Introduction  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*  
Book 1: [Happiness and the Soul]  
Chapters 1-7 pp. 2-11*

Week 2 – 9/5-9/7  
No class, Monday 9/3

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*  
**Wed.** Book 5: [Justice]  
Chapters 1-6, pp. 77-89*

**Fri.** Book 10: [Pleasure, Happiness, and the Importance of Politics]  
Chapters 6-9, pp. 184-195

Week 3- 9/10-9/14  
Aristotle, *Politics*  
**Mon.** Book 1 Ch. 1-8 pp.1-12*

**Wed.** Ch. 9-10 pp. 15-21*

**Fri.** GROUP 1 PRESENTATION  
Ch. 12-13 pp.21-25*

II.  Sympathy, Self-Interest, and the Contradictions of Commercial Society

Week 4—9/17-9/21  
**Mon** Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* [1759]  
Part I, Section I, Ch. 1-2: pp. 9-15*  
Part II, Section II, Ch. 2-3: pp. 82-91*

**Wed:** Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*  
Part IV, Ch 1: pp. 179-187*

**Fri.** GROUP 2 PRESENTATION  
Smith, *Wealth of Nations* [1776]  
Introduction & Plan of the Book and Ch. 1-2: pp. 1-20  
Optional but recommended for context and easy yet lively form of writing:  
Robert Heilbroner, *The Worldly Philosophers*, pp. 18-41*
Week 5 – 9/24-9/28

Mon: Smith, *Wealth of Nations* Book 1, Ch. 2-4: pp. pp. 17-33

Wed: GROUP 3 PRESENTATION
Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
Value contra Price and the Importance of Growth
Book I, Chapters V-VIII: pp. 34-43; 53-82

Fri: Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
Stock & Productive Labor
Book 2: pp. 291-293; 351-355

Week 6- 10/1-10/5

Smith, *Wealth of Nations*

Mon. Class Struggle & the Invisible Hand
Book I, Chapter XI, Conclusion pp. 275-8
Book IV, Chapter II pp. 474-481

Wed. GROUP 4 PRESENTATION
The Sovereign & Government
Book IV, Chapters IX, Part 2: pp. 208-9
Book V, Conclusion: Part 2: 338-340

Fri. Education
Book V, Chapter I, Part 2: pp. 302-309
Start reading 302 from “Ought the public...”

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III. Locating the Problem of Modernity

Week 7 – 10/8-10/12

No class Monday 10/8

Wed & Fri.
CB Macpherson, “Meanings of Property” pp. 1-13*
Marx, “Estranged Labor” [1844] pp. 70-81*
[Read Macpherson first. Read Marx very slowly, very carefully, and not in one sitting]

Week 8- 10/15-10/19

Mon 10/15. Review Session for Exam

Weds: Oct. 17: In-class MIDTERM EXAM

No class Friday 10/19
IV. Critique of Political Economy

Week 9- 10/22-10/26

Mon.: Marx, *Capital* [1867] Preface: pp. 89-93

Marx, “Value, Price, and Profit” [1865]
pp. 29-43

Wed.: GROUP 5 PRESENTATION
Marx, *Capital*
Ch. 4. The General Formula for Capital
pp.247-257
Ch. 5. Contradictions in the General Formula, pp. 258-269 (special attention to p. 253n-254n)
Ch. 6: The Sale and Purchase of Labor Power,
pp.270-280

We’ll discuss the general contrast between the labor and valorization processes, so please get an idea of what he is doing with this. Then please read carefully Marx’s explanation of surplus-value on pp.300-306, beginning from “Let us examine the matter more closely…”

Week 10- 10/29-11/2

Mon. “Value, Price, and Profit” 44-61
This is only for the sake of terminology, as Marx uses these categories of “constant” and “variable” capital in later chapters.

Wed. *Capital*
Ch.10. The Working Day
pp.340-344; 415-16
Ch. 12. The Concept of Relative Surplus Value,
pp.429-438 (Read this chapter very carefully)

Fri. GROUP 6 PRESENTATION
*Capital*
Chapter 13. Co-operation, pp.439-454
Chapter 14. The Division of Labor and Manufacture,
pp.455-61; 480-91.
Week 11-11/5-11/9

**Mon.** *Capital*
Ch. 15. Machinery and Large-Scale Industry
Skim over pp. 492-508
Read pp. 544-58; 565-9; 579-82
Read pp. 517-22, in conjunction with pp. 620-62

**Wed.** GROUP 7 PRESENTATION
*Capital*
Ch. 25. The General Law of Capitalist Accumulation
p. 762 and 781-798
[Read p. 762 just for the terminology surrounding the “composition of capital.”
Read pp. 781-798 closely.]

**Fri.** Marx, *Grundrisse* [1857-8]
Basic contradiction of capitalism: historicity of value,
overcoming wage-labor and capital
pp. 704-712

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V. Origins & Development of the ‘Work Ethic’

Week 12-11/12-11/16

**Mon.** Max Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
[1905] Introduction & Ch. 2: The Spirit of Capitalism
pp. 13-34; 47-78

**Wed.** Weber, *Protestant Ethic*
Ch. 3: Luther’s Conception of the Calling. Task of the Investigation
p.79-94

**Fri.** GROUP 8 PRESENTATION
Weber, *Protestant Ethic*
Ch. 4: Religious Foundations of Worldly Asceticism: A. Calvinism
pp.95-127

Week 13-11/19-11/23

**Mon.** Weber, *Protestant Ethic*
Ch. 5: Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism
pp. 155-184

No class Weds-Fri (11/21-23)
Happy Thanksgiving
Week 14: 11/26-11/30

Mon. Thorstein Veblen
‘Instinct of Workmanship and the Irksomeness of Labor’ [1899]: pp. 187-201*

VI. Theorizing the Contemporary World: Leisure or Mass Unemployment?

Wed. David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity* [1989]
pp. 121-172 (Don’t worry too much about length as many pages have graphs)

Fri. GROUP 9 PRESENTATION
Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity* [1989]
pp. 173-197

Week 15—12/3-12/7

Mon.: Andre Gorz, *Farewell to the Working-Class* [1982]
pp. 90-119 (Appendix)*

Wed. GROUP 10 PRESENTATION
Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums* [2006]
Ch. 1-2: pp. 1-49

Fri. Davis, *Planet of Slums*
Ch. 8: pp. 174-198

Take Home Final Exam due: Friday 12/14 by noon