



# LOYOLA

## UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

# MGMT 341

## Ethics in

### Business

### Spring 2018

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Office Hours: 1:00 – 2:15 Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Business is a collection of private, commercially oriented organizations, whereas society is a broad group of people with varying traditions, values, institutions, and collective activities and interests. Hence, businesses operate in free markets but are subject to obligations to protect (or *do no harm* to) the common good. Their challenge is to marry ‘the freedom to be’ with responsibility for others and particularly for the vulnerable. Business ethics provides moral systems for aligning priorities amid what are regularly contradictory or inconsistent sets of goals. This course examines the nature of these challenges from the basis of business ethics, their effects on companies and managers, and the corporate social responsibility tools managers can use to better understand and address complex issues involving numerous stakeholders.

Broad topic areas include: (a) the socio-cultural context of economic activity, (b) fundamentals of business ethics, (c) corporate social responsibility, (d) corporate-stakeholder relations, (e) globalization and consumer protection, and (f) sustainability and social, civic, and political action.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the student should be prepared to think critically and strategically about the ethical issues confronting business leaders, while being conscious of ethical principles, personal and company values, and socially responsible management practices.

### APPROACH TAKEN

We will accomplish this objective through a variety of methods, including readings, current issue briefs, class discussions, debates, case studies, and examinations. Substantial student involvement is required. Students will address a variety of “what if...” issues wherein there is a great deal of uncertainty. In most cases, there is no precedent of effective policy or *best practice* and there are fundamental disagreements about the facts, or the proper role of business. Participation in class discussions is also essential for success in this course.

## LEARNING MATERIALS

John R Boatright and Jeffrey D. Smith (2016). Ethics and the Conduct of Business Ethics (8<sup>th</sup> Ed). Pearson (Kindle, looseleaf, or paperback).

## METHOD OF EVALUATION

Assessments:	
Debate	140
Individual Position Paper	160
Midterm Exam	320
Final Exam	320
Participation	<u>60</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

## DROP DATES

Last day to drop without a “W”- January 22, 2018

Last day to drop classes with a Bursar credit of 100% - January 29, 2018

Last day to drop classes with a Bursar credit of 20% - February 19, 2018

## GROUND RULES

1. Please read your assigned chapters before coming to class.
2. Check Sakai on a regular basis for course updates and announcements.
3. The exams will be written during regular class time.
4. Please arrive to class on time, and **turn off all cell phones and personal entertainment and communication devices except laptop computers.** Attendance and participation requires being in class for the duration of the class, and being attentive. I will not confront students regarding cell phone usage during class, but simply make a mental note and make deductions from participation grade.

## MGMT 341 Tentative Course Schedule

I might make changes during the course to take advantage of emerging news and issues. However, I won't move an assignment or exam date forward in the schedule.

WEEK	TOPIC AND EXERCISES	READING / ASSIGNMENTS
<b>WEEK 1</b> January 16  January 18	Course Overview: Two Minds  <b>Introduction to Ethics and Business</b> <u>This American Life: "The Super"</u>	
<b>WEEK 2</b> January 23  January 25	<b>Ethics and Capitalism: Two Basic Perspectives on the Operation of Business Enterprise</b>  Ethics and Capitalism (continued) <b>Assignments to Debate Teams</b>	Chapter 1  Chapter 2 <i>The Tragedy of the Commons</i> – Hardin. <i>The Social Purpose of Business</i> – Friedman.
<b>WEEK 3</b> January 30  February 1	<b>Ethical Principles and Reasoning</b>  Ethical Principles and Reasoning_ (continued)	Chapter 3
<b>WEEK 4</b> February 6  February 8	<u>This American Life – The Competition</u>  Corporate Social Responsibility	Chapter 12
<b>WEEK 5</b> February 13  February 15	Globalization  <u>Film: The Making of a T-Shirt</u>	Chapter 14
<b>WEEK 6</b> February 20  February 22	Health and Safety  Deliberation: Chemical Hazard and Ethical Responsibility	Chapter 9  <i>Dow Chemical and Agent Orange in Vietnam</i>

<p><b>WEEK 7</b> February 27</p> <p>Exam Prep</p> <p>March 1</p>	<p><b>Midterm Exam</b></p>	
<p><b>WEEK 8</b> March 6</p> <p>March 8</p>	<p><b>***SPRING BREAK***</b></p>	
<p><b>WEEK 9</b> March 13</p> <p>March 15</p>	<p>Whistle-Blowing</p> <p>Business Information and Conflict of Interest</p>	<p>Chapter 4</p> <p>Chapter 5</p>
<p><b>WEEK 10</b> March 20</p> <p>March 22</p>	<p>Privacy</p> <p><b>Debate 1</b> – Resolved: It is fitting and appropriate to fire workers for their social media posts.</p>	<p>Chapter 6</p> <p><b>Individual Papers due – Persons in Debate 6</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 11</b> March 27</p> <p>March 29</p>	<p>Marketing and Advertising</p> <p><b>Debate 2</b> – Resolved: Globalization, in its present form, is good for the world.</p>	<p>Chapter 10</p> <p><b>Individual Papers due – Persons in Debate 5</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 12</b> April 3</p> <p>April 5</p>	<p>Employment Rights</p> <p><b>Debate 3</b> – Resolved: Upon resigning from Goldman Sachs, Greg Smith wrote an op-ed in the New York Times detailing the firm’s ethical failings; he took an ethical action.</p>	<p>Chapter 8</p> <p><b>Individual Papers due – Persons in Debates 4</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 13</b> April 10</p> <p>April 12</p>	<p>Environment and Sustainability The Story of Stuff</p> <p><b>Debate 4</b> – Resolved: Ethically sensitive universities should (heed the admonitions of the divest movement) discard their fossil fuel stocks.</p>	<p><i>Creative Capitalism</i> – Bill Gates</p> <p><b>Individual Papers due – Persons in Debates 3</b></p>

<p><b>WEEK 14</b> April 17</p> <p>April 19</p>	<p>Discrimination and Affirmative Action</p> <p><b>Debate 5</b> – The companies that did not sign on to the Bangladesh Accord were wrong.</p>	<p>Chapter 7</p> <p><b>Individual Papers due – Persons in Debates 2</b></p>
<p><b>WEEK 15</b> April 24</p> <p>April 26</p>	<p><b>Debate 6</b> – Resolved: Wal-Mart exemplifies the way business should be conducted.</p> <p>Exam Prep</p>	<p><b>Individual Papers due – Persons in Debate 1</b></p>
<p>May 5</p>	<p><b>4:15 P.M. FINAL EXAM</b></p>	

### Performance as a Group Member

All group members will evaluate the performance of their peers. Your grade for the group project will be a factor of the group evaluation. For example, if the group scores 90% on the group project but evaluates your performance at 70%. Your score for the project is 63% (70 percent of 90).

In addition, the group is not obligated to wait on a group member to get involved with the project. This may force the entire group to wait ‘until the last minute’ because a member does not want to engage the project in its early stages. If the group member is not meeting group expectations the group should consult with me. I will make contact with the individual and, if warranted I may discharge that individual from the group. In such a case, the ‘expelled’ member is required to submit the assignment on his or her own for reduced credit of not less than 25%.

### Plagiarism

There are many forms of plagiarism, for instance, copying on exams and assignments. There is a clear line between group work on assignments when explicitly authorised by the professor and copying solutions from others. It is permissible to work on assignments with your friends but only when the professor gives you permission in the specific context of the assignment. University rules clearly stipulate that all assignments should be undertaken individually unless specifically authorised.

Specific examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Copying a computer file from another student, and using it as a template for your own solution
- Copying text written by another student
- Submitting the work of someone else, including that of a tutor as your own

An example of acceptable collaboration includes the following:

- When authorised by the professor, discussing the issues and underlying factors of a case with fellow students, and then each of the students writing up their submissions individually, from start to finish.