

**Argosy University**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
*B6003*  
*Ethics in Business*

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**Faculty Information**

**Faculty Name:**

**Campus:**

**Contact Information:**

**Office Hours:**

**Short Faculty Bio:**

**Course description:**

This course addresses the ethical dimensions of management with a special focus on the processes managers may use to raise and resolve ethical dilemmas and conflicts in organizational settings. Policies pertaining to treatment of those raising ethical issues will be considered. The legal and regulatory requirements of ethical conduct will be examined. Policies and codes of conduct established by various organizations and industry groups will be critically examined. The course will feature case studies involving alleged breaches of ethical conduct among publicly held corporations.

**Course Pre-requisites:** None

**Required Textbook:**

**IMPORTANT: You are not required to purchase the textbook for this course. Your textbook will be available to you as an electronic book with your fully online or blended course on the eCollege platform.**

Hartman, L. P. (2005). *Perspectives in business ethics* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Irwin/McGraw Hill.

**Course length:** 7.5 Weeks

**Contact Hours:** 45 Hours

**Credit Value:** 3.0

**Program Outcomes:**

1. Communication
  - 1.1. Oral/Written – Present business information orally and in writing using appropriate technology that is concise, clear, organized, supported, and persuasive in a professional manner appropriate to the business context.
2. Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
  - 2.1. Critical Thinking – Incorporate and synthesize information, theory, and practice in order to implement appropriate business actions.

- 2.2. Problem Solving/Decision Making – Given a business situation, diagnose the underlying causes of the situation, evaluate possible solutions, and determine and defend appropriate course of action.
- 2.3. Information Literacy – Access information from a variety of sources, evaluate the credibility of the sources, and apply that information to solve business problems.
3. Team
  - 3.1. Leadership – Describe the requirements of team members and leaders to work effectively and creatively in achieving team goals.
  - 3.2. Collaboration – Collect, categorize, and consider the views of all stakeholders.
4. Ethics
  - 4.1. Ethics – Identify the ethical principles related to personal and corporate behavior in specific business situations and explain the potential consequences.
5. Diversity
  - 5.1. Diversity – Identify the impact of both cultural and economic factors on the modern enterprise and explain the potential consequences.
6. Analysis/Application
  - 6.1. Applied Technology – Select and defend business technology solutions to typical business problems.
  - 6.2. Integration – Describe the interrelationship of the functional business areas of statistics, accounting, finance, marketing, operations, and strategy within the context of specific organizational goals.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Compare and contrast the various ethical theories and frameworks. (Program Outcomes: 1.1, 2.1,4.1)
2. Evaluate the nature and value of business ethics in profit and non-profit organizations. (Program Outcomes: 1.1, 2.1,4.1,5.1,6.2)
3. From a management perspective, explore, appraise and apply various alternatives and responses when observing non-ethical practices in the workplace. (Program Outcomes: 1.1, 2.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.2)
4. Assess and evaluate the role of leadership, structure, and corporate culture as mechanisms to develop and maintain a business code of ethics. (Program Outcomes: 1.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.2)
5. Examine and appraise the role of ethics in human resources management, sales and marketing, finance and accounting, as well as, the technology field. (Program Outcomes: 1.1, 2.1, 4.1, 6.2)
6. Examine current legal and regulatory requirements of ethical conduct. (Program Outcomes: 1.1, 2.1, 4.1)
7. Examine case studies related to ethics in business and write in-depth analyses using APA format. (Program Outcomes: 1.1,2.1, 3.1,4.1,5.1,6.2)

### **Assignment Table**

	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1</b>	Ethical theories & framework and its applications to business decisions.	Read Chapter 1, pp. 1-17	
<b>2</b>	Corporate ethical leadership, social responsibility and reporting	Chapters 3 & 4, pp.183-198	
<b>3</b>	Ethical analysis & applications	Read Chapter 2, pp. 87-99	
<b>4</b>	Ethics in marketing	Read Chapter 6, pp.514-532	
<b>5</b>	Ethics & Human Resource management	Read Chapter 5, pp. 349-363	
<b>6</b>	Ethical considerations in finance & accounting	Read Chapter 7, pp.613-635	
<b>7</b>	Ethical implications of technology	Read Chapter 8, pp.717-728	
<b>8</b>	Final Reflections		

### **Final Paper Suggested Topics**

**Students are encouraged to consider the following two general topics for their final papers. All other topics and deviations must be pre-approved by the course facilitator before submission.**

- Explain and discuss the term “financial shenanigans” and how they affect the financial health of a company in the long run. Research the Internet and discuss one specific case by providing details of what transpired, and how were shareholders and stakeholders affected? What were the attitudes of the company’s management in dealing with the issue? Recent examples include: Enron, WorldCom, Fannie Mae, HealthSouth Corp., and Computer Associates International, and American International Group Inc. just to name a few. Your discussion should also be tied into the major stipulations of the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) and how the Act aims at reducing instances of financial shenanigans, such as the one you are discussing in your paper. Submit a 10-12 page, APA format paper discussing your findings.
- Choose 3 or 4 essays from the text book relating to your area of experience and expertise (Finance, Accounting, H.R, Technology, etc.), and submit a 10-12 page, APA format paper analysis and critique of your chosen readings. Provide the reader with a literature review of your chosen essays, starting out with a synopsis of the major ideas and themes in each essay. Next conduct an in-depth critique of

the essays by comparing and contrasting the essential points discussed in each work. Finally in the conclusion phase of your paper, provide the reader with a reflective assessment of what lessons one can learn from the points brought up in the essays and how they can effectively be implemented in a typical business setting. The following is a checklist that you can use in analyzing/ critiquing your chosen essays:

*Each piece of writing is different; but, in most cases, the majority of these questions are applicable. Use these questions as a point of reference for your critique. Students may also cover other relevant aspects of an essay, not addressed by the critique question list below.*

- Is the essay's title a clear depiction of its content? Why or Why not?
- How is the author qualified to write about the subject matter?
- What is the purpose of the essay? Is it stated clearly?
- Identify the problem statement in the essay. Does the introduction and conclusion focus clearly on the problem statement?
- Are statement of facts (beyond common street facts) supported by appropriate citations in the text and/or references?
- Which ideas in the essay need further development?
- What ideas in the essay are practical enough to be implemented in a business setting? Which ones are rather impractical? Why?
- Does the essay contain discursive or irrelevant sections? What are they?
- Is the work biased in any way? Examine the author's biases.
- Is there an idea that is common to all essays?
- How is the essay different from the other one(s) you are also critiquing?

## Grading Criteria

*Grading Scale*  
*Grading requirements*

<b>A</b>	100 – 93
<b>A-</b>	92 – 90
<b>B+</b>	89 – 88
<b>B</b>	87 – 83
<b>B-</b>	82 – 80
<b>C+</b>	79 – 78
<b>C</b>	77 – 73
<b>C-</b>	72 – 70
<b>F</b>	69 and below

<i>Attendance/participation</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Weekly Assignments</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Final paper</i>	<i>35%</i>
<i>Optional</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Optional</i>	<i>10%</i>
	<i>100%</i>

## **Library**

*All resources in Argosy University's online collection are available through the Internet. The campus librarian will provide students with links, user IDs, and passwords.*

All resources in Argosy University's online collection are available through the Internet. Students can access the online collection by logging into the student portal and clicking on the library link. Library Resources: Argosy University's core online collection features over 48, 889 full-text journals and 23,000 electronic books and other content covering all academic subject areas including Business & Economics, Career & General Education, Computers, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Science, Medicine & Allied Health, and Social & Behavior Sciences. Many titles are directly accessible through the Online Public Access Catalog at <http://library.argosy.edu>.

In addition to online resources, Argosy University's onsite collections contain a wealth of subject-specific research materials searchable in the Online Public Access Catalog. Catalog searching is easily limited to individual campus collections. Alternatively, students can search combined collections of all Argosy University Libraries. Students are encouraged to seek research and reference assistance from campus librarian.

## **Academic Policies**

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism: In an effort to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity during the learning process, Argosy University requires that the submission of all course assignments represent the original work produced by that student. All sources must be documented through normal scholarly references/citations and all work must be submitted using the current edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Students are encouraged to purchase this manual and become familiar with its content as well as consult the Argosy University catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

Scholarly writing: The faculty at Argosy University is dedicated to providing a learning environment that supports scholarly and ethical writing, free from academic dishonesty and plagiarism. This includes the proper and appropriate referencing of all sources. You may be asked to submit your course assignments through "Turnitin," ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin compares submitted papers to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report to your instructor. This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act Policy**

It is the policy of Argosy University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Director

of Student Services. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request.

Students will be notified by the Director of Student Services when each request for accommodation is approved or denied in writing via a designated form. To receive accommodation in class, it is the student's responsibility to present the form (at his or her discretion) to the instructor. In an effort to protect student privacy, the Department of Student Services will not discuss the accommodation needs of any student with instructors. Faculty may not make accommodations for individuals who have not been approved in this manner.

### **The Argosy University Statement Regarding Diversity**

Argosy University prepares students to serve populations with diverse social, ethnic, economic, and educational experiences. Both the academic and training curricula are designed to provide an environment in which students can develop the skills and attitudes essential to working with people from a wide range of backgrounds.