

Argosy University
COURSE SYLLABUS

B6732

Perspective in Ethics

Faculty Information

Faculty Name:

Campus:

Contact Information:

Office Hours:

Short Faculty Bio:

Course description: This course examines the applications of ethical principals through consideration of typical problem areas encountered in organizations. This course focuses on the ethical perspectives of decision-making and policy development in a variety of key areas including individual behavior, human resource management, work environments and property rights. The analysis of case situations will illustrate the application of various ethical approaches (utility, individual rights, and justice) in managing organizations.

Course Pre-requisites: None

Required Textbook:

IMPORTANT: You are required to purchase the textbook for this course. Please access the MBS website to purchase the text.

Shaw, W. H. (2011). *Business ethics: A textbook with cases* (7th ed.). Cengage Advantage Books. Mason, OH: Cengage.

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 explains 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:

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the considerations for and process of ethical decision-making to balance organizational and social responsibilities and address moral, economic, and legal concerns.
2. Analyze selected situations using the predominate ethical theories, such as utilitarian and virtue ethics to guide ethical decision-making.
3. Explain the concepts of justice and the factors that constitute rights using the predominate ethical theories.
4. Explain the role of government in an economic system and the critical ethics issues associated with government.
5. Recommend viable policy options that address key ethical considerations and foster an ethical work environment.
6. Analyze the concepts of public safety and government regulation along with the role of responsibility.
7. Recommend ways in which government can be partners with nature by applying the concepts of ethics, ecology, and environmental ethics.

8. Describe the implications and impact of various civil liberty laws in the workplace, such as hiring, promotion, discipline, discharge, and wage discrimination.
9. Analyze the effects of unethical actions by public officials on the organization, its employees, and society.
10. Analyze the ethical issues related to job discrimination, affirmative actions, and sexual harassment.
11. Use technology and information resources to research issues in public ethics.

Assignment Table

	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	<p>Considerations and process of ethical decision-making to balance public and social responsibilities and address moral, economic, and legal concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics • Religion and morality • Ethical relativism • Individual integrity and responsibility • Moral reasoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 1 • Review Case 1.1, “Made in the USA” 	<p>With all of the safety concerns of Chinese imported children products, discuss the ethical issues of “Made in the USA - Dumped in Brazil, Africa, Iraq...”</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consequentialist and nonconsequentialist theories • Egoism • Utilitarianism • Kant’s ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2 • Review Case 2.1, “Hacking into Harvard” • Review Case 2.2, The Ford Pinto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reading Case 2.1, “Hacking into Harvard,” discuss the following: <p>In your view, was it wrong for the graduate applicants to take an unauthorized peak at their application files?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why you consider what they did morally permissible or impermissible. • What obligations, ideals, and effects should the applicants have considered? • Do you think, as some have suggested, that there is a generation gap on this issue?

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess Ford’s handling of the Pinto from the perspective of each of the moral theories discussed in this chapter. Explain the theory that seems most appropriate to the situation.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concepts of justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of justice The utilitarian view The libertarian view Rawls’ theory of justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 3 Review Case 3.1, “Eminent Domain” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After reading Case 3.1, “Eminent Domain,” discuss the following: Do you believe that eminent domain is a morally legitimate right of government? Explain why or why not. Give examples of where the exercise of eminent domain has had positive effects and where it has had negative effects of the area(s) where it was applied.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of government in an economic system and the critical ethics issues Concepts of public safety and government regulation along with the role of business responsibility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business and ecology The ethics of environmental protection Achieving our environmental goals Delving deeper into environmental ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapters 4 and 5 Review Case 4.1, “Licensing and Laissez Faire” Review Case 5.1, “Yahoo in China” Read Chapter 7 Review Case 7.1, Hazardous Homes in Herculaneum” Review Case 7.3, The Fordassaurus” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After reading Case 5.1, “Yahoo in China,” discuss the following: Would American companies do more good by refusing to cooperate with Chinese authorities (and risk not being able to do business in China) or by cooperating and working gradually to spread Internet freedom? After reading Case 7.1, “Hazardous Homes in Herculaneum,” discuss the following: 1. Who should pay the costs of cleaning up Herculaneum - the company? The town? The state of Missouri?

			<p>The federal government?</p> <p>2. What if the cost of restoring Herculaneum exceeds Doe Run’s resources?</p> <p>3. In general, whose responsibility is it to clean up the country’s hazardous pollution sites and waste dumps?</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership of government and nature by applying the concepts of ethics, ecology, and environmental ethics. • Civil liberties in the workplace • Hiring • Promotion • Discipline and discharge • Wages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 8 • Review Case 8.1, “AIDS in the Workplace” • Review Case 8.5, “Have Gun, Will Travel...to Work” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reading Case 8.1, “AIDS in the Workplace,” discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the moral issues in this case? What ideals, obligations, and consequences must Carla Lombard consider? What rights, if any, are at stake? Will it make a difference whether Carla adopts a Kantian approach or a utilitarian approach or a utilitarian approach to this situation? • After reading Case 8.5, “Have Gun, Will Travel...to Work,” discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assume that either the Second Amendment or state law gives you a legal right to Keep a gun in your car. 1. Do you have a moral right to do that? 2. Do you have a moral, not only a legal, right to

			<p>own a gun?</p> <p>3. Do you have either a moral or a legal right to park a car with a loaded gun in a public parking lot regardless of what the lot's owner wants?</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications and impact of various civil liberty laws in the workplace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational influence in private lives • Obtaining information • Working conditions • Redesigning work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 9 • Review Case (.5, "The Mommy Track") • Review Case 9.2, "Testing for Honesty" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reading Case 9.5, "The Mommy Tract," discuss the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you think Schwartz is correct to assert that the cost of employing women in management is greater than that of employing men? 2. Explain why you agree or disagree, citing examples from your experience and/or for external sources (magazines, newspapers, reports). Also, comment on the implications the cost of employing women has to public policy. • After reading Case 9.2, "Testing for Honesty," discuss the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What ideals, obligations, and effects must be considered in using psychological test as preemployment screens? Which is the most important consideration? Explain your reasoning. 2. Utilitarians would not find anything inherently objectionable about psychological tests as long as the interests of all parties were taken into account and given

			equal consideration before such tests were made a preemployment screen. Do you think this is generally the case?
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of unethical actions by public officials of the organization, its employees, and society. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obligations to the organization • Abuse of official position • Bribes and kickbacks • Gifts and entertainment • Conflicting obligations • Whistle-blowing • Self-interest and moral obligation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 10 • Review Case 10.2, “Two Who Made Waves for the Navy” • Review Case 10.4, “Ethically Dubious Conduct” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reading Case 10.2, “Two Who Made Waves for the Navy,” discuss the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you believe Storm’s whistle-blowing was permissible, do you also believe that it was morally required of him? What about Ahern’s? 2. Would someone in Storm’s position have been justified in subordinating moral reasons to prudential concerns and thus in remaining silent? Explain. • After reading Case 10.4, “Ethically Dubious Conduct,” discuss the following: <p>Review the following items and assess the conduct in question. Do you find it morally acceptable, morally unacceptable, or somewhere in between? Explain.</p> <p>On a company business trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying in the most expensive hotel • Taking taxis when you could walk • Including wine as food on your expense tab • Taking your spouse along at company expense

8	Concept Integration and Wrap Up		

Grading Criteria

Grading Scale

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

Grading requirements

<i>Attendance/participation</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Weekly Assignments</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Final project</i>	<i>30%</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), 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.