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BADM 680-01, Ethics: Business and Society, Spring 2009

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BADM 261-01: BUSINESS ETHICS
BADM 680-01: ETHICS: BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2009

A business that makes nothing but money is a poor kind of business. – Henry Ford

Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted. – Albert Einstein

DESCRIPTION AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is a survey course analyzing the relationship between business and society and the various factors which impact the evaluation of business decisions from an ethical perspective. The objectives of this course include (i) understanding the concept of stakeholders and the related impact on business decisions; (ii) exploring the interaction of business conduct and social responsibility; (iii) raising awareness of ethical and social issues and ability to examine situations and to make decisions in response to such issues; (iv) examining and discussing current events and social issues; and (v) applying ethical principles and decision-making framework to actual business situations.

INSTRUCTOR

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CLASS MEETING INFORMATION

Wednesdays: 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Buckman Hall 108

CLASS CREDITS

Students enrolled in BADM 261 shall receive four (4) academic credits upon the successful completion of this course. Students enrolled in BADM 680 shall receive three (3) academic credits upon the successful completion of this course.

OFFICE HOURS

I will generally be available in Buckman Hall each Monday at 530 PM and after the end of class to discuss any questions or provide any assistance you may need. I can be available on campus at other times which are convenient to you.

I am available in my office most weekdays between 8 AM and 6 PM. Please feel free to contact me at my office during these hours or at home during other times. If I am not available when you try to reach me, I will be glad to return your call or set a time for us to meet. You may also leave a message on my office voicemail or send me an e-mail. While I generally check my Rhodes campus e-mail on a daily basis, I maintain much more frequent access to my office e-mail. I am generally available by my office e-mail during the week and on the weekends. If there are any questions or issues of which all students need to be notified, I will e-mail everyone.

TEXTS AND READINGS

Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings, Sixth Edition; South-Western CENGAGE Learning; Marianne M. Jennings (2009).

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller (Penguin Plays).

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Scribner).

The Secret Sharer by Joseph Conrad (Dover).

Newspapers, periodicals, blogs and podcasts such as *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *Business Week*, *Fortune*, *Portfolio*, *National Public Radio* and *The Ethicist* podcast (available on iTunes and www.nytimes.com).

Supplemental readings and case studies distributed throughout the term.

GRADING

Case / Reading Summaries	15%
Written Commentaries (specific points to be allocated to each commentary)	25%
Class Presentation	25%
Final Essay	20%
Class Participation, Current Event Discussion, Lectures and Group Assignments	15%

CASE SUMMARIES

The textbook contains readings and case studies for each unit which we will discuss in class as indicated on the schedule. Each graduate student must submit twenty (20) individually-written case / reading analyses and each undergraduate student must submit fifteen (15) individually-written case / reading analyses. Such case / reading analyses should summarize the case / reading and answer the discussion questions associated with each case. The instructor will announce each week which cases / readings are available for summary. It is anticipated that we will cover more cases in class than twenty (20) and therefore, students may not be required to prepare all case / reading summaries assigned but should read all of the cases / readings assigned for discussion purposes. **Case / reading summaries must be turned in at the beginning of the class session at which the cases / readings are to be discussed. If a student e-mails the case / reading summaries to me, I must receive the e-mail prior to the beginning of the respective class.**

WRITTEN COMMENTARIES

There will also be six (6) written commentary assignments for both graduate and undergraduate students throughout the semester: personal statement, op-ed, American dream commentary, book critique, environmental / social responsibility critique and personal responsibility commentary. Each graduate student will be required to prepare and submit an additional written commentary assignment to be distributed during the semester. The specific requirements and allocated points for each assignment will be distributed in class during the semester. The due dates for each assignment are as listed on the class schedule. **Written commentaries must be turned in at the beginning of the class session at which the commentaries are due. If a student e-mails the commentaries to me, I must receive the e-mail prior to the beginning of the respective class.**

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

The class presentation will analyze the ethical practices of a specific corporation, as approved by the instructor, and incorporate the various topics discussed in class. The class presentations will be made in groups of two (2) or three (3) students, as assigned by the instructor. In addition to making an oral presentation to the entire class, each presentation group is required to submit a written version of your presentation; although, such written version may be in the form of an annotated outline. The presentations will be required to address specific issues and questions regarding the chosen corporation. Additional details regarding the class presentation will be distributed and discussed in class prior to the Spring Recess in order to provide adequate time for preparation.

FINAL ESSAY

The final essay will summarize and relate the student's best thoughts on the themes of professionalism and business ethics. The essay should evidence (a) that the student has read and reflected on all of the assignments in the course; (b) that the student has considered the application of the various theories and stakeholders presented and discussed in class; and (c) that the student has examined the possibility of personal growth and enhanced understanding of his or her own ethical standpoint. Further details regarding the final essay will be discussed in class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY / PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance and active participation is vital to understanding the subject matter. This class is intended to be a combination of lecture, case analysis, presentations and discussions. Every student is expected to come to each class having read the assigned readings and case studies and to be able to participate in the discussions in class. In addition, students should be prepared to discuss news reports or articles that relate to the topic assigned for that particular day or to a relevant contemporary business ethics issue, whether provided by the instructor or by the students.

All viewpoints and perspectives will be welcomed, appreciated and respected as will counterpoints to such views. There are few, if any, entirely right or wrong answers with this subject matter.

In order to facilitate a positive environment for class discussion, each student should turn off his or her cell phone, Blackberry or other similar device prior to the beginning of class.

Class participation will be considered a component of the student's grade as indicated above. Participation will be evaluated on quality of discussion, not just on quantity of discussion. More than one (1) unexcused absence will negatively affect a student's grade.

CROSS-LISTED UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COURSES

At Rhodes, cross-listed courses are those which count as both undergraduate and graduate courses. Separate course numbers are assigned to the undergraduate and graduate components of the course. Graduate students enrolled in these courses should be aware of the following provisions:

- Each student is responsible for assuring that he or she is enrolled in the appropriate course level. Graduate students who enroll under the undergraduate course number will not receive graduate credit. The registrar will not retroactively change the number.
- Graduate students may not take a cross-listed course for graduate credit if he or she has already received undergraduate credit for a course that covered essentially the same material.
- In all cross-listed courses, graduate students must complete work that is substantially more advanced than the work expected of undergraduate students. Even when a common syllabus forms the basis of the graduate and undergraduate components, the graduate students must demonstrate higher levels of knowledge and intellectual inquiry. Therefore, the professor will require graduate students to complete a significant number of assignments that are substantially more advanced in quantity, complexity, and/or analysis. These extra requirements may take many forms, such as additional or different research, readings, presentations, or quantitative analyses.
- Graduate students should schedule an appointment with the professor to determine the additional graduate expectations of a cross-listed course.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
JANUARY 14	INTRODUCTION AND FRAMEWORK PERSONAL STATEMENT COMMENTARY
JANUARY 21	FOUNDATIONS OF PERSONAL AND BUSINESS ETHICS (JENNINGS – UNITS 1 AND 2)
JANUARY 28	THE ROLE OF BUSINESS IN SOCIETY; THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN BUSINESS (JENNINGS – UNITS 3 AND 4) OP-Ed COMMENTARY DUE
FEBRUARY 4 FEBRUARY 11	INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND THE BUSINESS ORGANIZATION (JENNINGS – UNIT 5)
FEBRUARY 18	THE AMERICAN DREAM: WHAT HAS MEANT IN THE PAST AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TODAY? DISCUSSION OF <u>THE GREAT GATSBY</u> AND <u>DEATH OF A SALESMAN</u> AMERICAN DREAM COMMENTARY DUE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
FEBRUARY 25 MARCH 4	BUSINESS OPERATIONS: FINANCIAL ISSUES (JENNINGS – UNIT 6)
MARCH 11	BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT ETHICS AND NONPROFITS (JENNINGS – UNITS 10 AND 11) BOOK REVIEW COMMENTARY DUE
MARCH 18	SPRING RECESS
MARCH 25	BUSINESS OPERATIONS: WORKPLACE SAFETY RISKS, SYSTEMS AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS (JENNINGS – UNIT 7) <i><u>LECTURE: DEIRDRE MCCLOSKEY, AUTHOR OF THE BOURGEOIS VIRTUES: ETHICS FOR AN AGE OF COMMERCE (TBA)</u></i>
APRIL 1	BUSINESS AND ITS COMPETITION (JENNINGS – UNIT 8)
APRIL 8	BUSINESS AND ITS PRODUCT (JENNINGS – UNIT 9) ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMENTARY DUE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
APRIL 15	CLASS PRESENTATIONS
APRIL 22	CLASS PRESENTATIONS ADDITIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT WRITTEN COMMENTARY DUE
APRIL 29	AM I READY TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY? DISCUSSION OF <i><u>THE SECRET SHARER</u></i> PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMENTARY DUE
MONDAY, MAY 4 530 PM	FINAL EXAM

THE ABOVE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.