



PHILOSOPHY 315 Professional Ethics

STUDENT COURSE SYLLABUS
Winter 2021 | 5 Credits

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Matthew Owen | mowen@yvcc.edu | 509-574-4828

Office Hours: Please know that I am here to help you and am eager to do so. The best way to reach me is via email. Since our campus is closed due to the coronavirus, if you would like to meet for office hours, please email me to set up a time to virtually meet for office hours. Please feel free to contact me about any questions. I'll do our best to respond within 48 hours during the work week.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will apply ethical reasoning and traditional ethical theories (including consequentialist, rights-based, and virtue-based theories) to potential dilemmas and actual problems that emerge in contexts and practices across professions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Abilities developed in Ethics 315:

1. Analytic Reasoning (AR): is the ability to consider an issue, idea, or concept systematically and assess the component parts and their application.
2. Communication (C): is the ability to organize ideas and concepts clearly and logically.
3. Historical Perspective (HP): identify relevant historical influences.

Outcome One: Students will be able to distinguish between normative, meta-ethical, and descriptive claims in analyzing a variety of ethical perspectives in professional contexts.

Objective a: Identify the specific steps in reasoning, and the justification given for them, by individual moral philosophers (AR).

Objective b: Identify the major reasons for adhering or not adhering to various ethical positions.

Outcome Two: Students will be able to recognize, evaluate and apply a variety of ethical theories to various contemporary professional ethical problems.

Objective a: Examine and analyze arguments for various ethical positions, including the presentation of counter-examples (AR).

Objective b: Evaluate the strength and weakness of a variety of ethical theories.

Outcome Three: Students will be able to participate in ethical discussion and contribute to them through the use of dialectical reasoning.

Objective a: Generate and respond dialectically to questions about conceptions of responsibility, right and wrong, and the relationship between morality and well-being (AR).

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Joseph DesJardins. *An Introduction to Business Ethics*, Latest Edition. McGraw-Hill.

ASSIGNMENTS

Canvas and Class Discussion (70 points total | 5 points per Canvas post, 5 points per class discussion): Throughout the quarter there will be seven discussions each worth 10 points total. Each discussion consists of two elements. The first element is a written Canvas discussion board post that must be a minimum of 150 words that is due by Wednesday at 11:59pm, which is worth 5 points. The second element is a class verbal discussion over Zoom on Thursday during our meeting time, which is worth 5 points. The two elements together are worth 10 points for each discussion. To receive all 10 points for each discussion, students must make the post on time and contribute to the class discussion and therefore must be present for the class discussion on Zoom.

Business Telos Assignment (20 points): This assignment amounts to a 4-page paper. In this paper you are to present your overall view of the ethical telos (or ultimate purpose) of a particular corporation and the ethical implications. The corporation can be your own real corporation or an imaginary corporation. See the Business Telos Assignment handout for instructions.

Midterm Exam (10 points): During the fifth week of the quarter there will be a midterm exam worth a total of 10 points.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Table: Course Assignments & Grading Weight

Canvas and Class Discussion	70 points total (5+5 points each discussion)
Business Telos Assignment	20 points
Midterm Exam	10 points
Total	100 points

Grading Scale

A	93-100%
A-	90-92.9%
B+	87-89.9%
B	83-86.9%
B-	80-82.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	75-76.9%
C-	71-74.9%
D+	67-70.9%
D	60-66.9%
F	0-59.9%

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following course schedule provides an overview of the course topics covered each week but is subject to change due to the needs of the class.

Week	TOPICS	LEARNING ACTIVITIES
1 1/4	Course Introduction: Syllabus & Why Study Business Ethics?	Read: Moriarty, 'Business Ethics' Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<i>META-ETHICS</i>		
2 1/11	Meta-Ethical Theory in Business: Realism vs. Relativism	Read: DesJardins, Ch. 1 Discussion: Canvas post due Wednesday, class discussion Thursday.
<i>NORMATIVE ETHICS</i>		
3 1/18	Normative Ethical Theory in Business: Utilitarianism vs. Deontology	Read: DesJardins, Ch. 2 Discussion: Canvas post due Wednesday, class discussion Thursday.
4 1/25	Normative Ethical Theory in Business: Virtue Ethics & Natural Law Ethics	Read: Athanassoulis 'Virtue Ethics' & Murphy 'Natural Law Tradition in Ethics' Discussion: Canvas post due Wednesday, class discussion Thursday.
<i>APPLIED ETHICS</i>		
5 2/1	Corporate Social Responsibility	Read: DesJardins, Ch. 3 Discussion: Canvas post due Wednesday, class discussion Thursday. Midterm Exam: On Canvas

6 2/8	The Telos of Business & Corporate Virtues	Read: DesJardins, Chs. 4 & 11 Discussion: Canvas post due Wednesday, class discussion Thursday.
7 2/15	Marketing Ethics: Product Safety, Advertising, and Pricing	Read: DesJardins, Chs. 8 & 9 Discussion: Canvas post due Wednesday, class discussion Thursday.
8 2/22	Business & Environmental Responsibility	Read: DesJardins, Chs. 10 & 12 Discussion: Canvas post due Wednesday, class discussion Thursday.
9 3/1	Morality of Economic Systems	Read: DesJardins, Chs. 6 & 7 Discussion: on Zoom
10 3/8	The Meaning and Value of Work	Read: Desjardins, Ch. 5 DUE Friday, March 12: Business Telos Assignment
11 3/15	Finals Week	

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with your instructor as soon as possible. The office location is in Sundquist Hall. Office hours vary according to clinical and classroom schedules, please call the Nursing Department at 574-4902 or the instructor's number provided on page 1 of this syllabus. General information on disability accommodation may also be obtained through Disabled Student Services located in Deccio Higher Education Building C138 or by calling 574-4961.

GENERAL POLICIES

Exams: Attendance is required for all scheduled exams and quizzes. Students who arrive late for an exam may not be admitted to the room and may have to reschedule to take the exam at the instructor's discretion. Students who are not in class for quizzes or who arrive after the quiz has been distributed, will be unable to take the quiz at that time and rescheduling is at the discretion of the instructor. Students who are late to exams or quizzes will complete a Performance Improvement Plan. Continuation of this problem may result in failure of the course and/or program dismissal. Students are not to leave the room during the exam. If students anticipate personal problems that might interrupt them during an exam, this should be discussed with the instructor **prior** to the beginning of the exam. If the student anticipates needing to use the restroom during testing, notify the instructor **prior** beginning of the test. Students who have emergencies that prevent them from being in class for an exam or quiz are required to notify the instructor **prior** to the scheduled exam. Re-scheduled exams must be taken within 24 hours of original time unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Students that do not notify lead instructor of anticipated absence and do not attend required exam will complete a Performance Improvement Plan. The student that had a "no call, no show" incident may not be allowed to reschedule the exam; this will be at the discretion of the lead instructor. Continuation of this problem may result in failure of the course and/or program dismissal. Examinations may only be taken **once**, no repeat exams are offered.

Cell Phones: All cell phones are to be turned off before class begins. During exams, cell phones are to be placed in the student's purse or backpack. Students who are anticipating emergency calls should discuss this with the instructor **prior** to the beginning of class.

Course Withdrawal: In order to withdraw from this course, an instructor's signature is required. It is the student's responsibility to secure an add/drop slip from the Registrar's office and fill it out completely.