

**MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY
BUSINESS ETHICS (BUS 643)
SYLLABUS**

COURSE: BUS 643-02 Business Ethics

INSTRUCTOR: Dustin Loeffler, Esq.
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TEXT: Ethical Challenges to Business as Usual. Collins-Chobanian, S. (2005), Upper Saddle River, NJ, Prentice Hall.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

PRE-ASSIGNMENT: Chapter 1 of the assigned text.

CLASS DATES: March 11, 18, 25, 30; April 8, 15, 22, 29
(Thursday April 1 is Easter Break)

CLASS TIMES: 6-9:50pm

CLASS LOCATION: REID 2309

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:

Maryville University provides accommodations and supports for students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact the course instructor and/or the Director of the Academic Success Center located in the University Library (314-529-6850).

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

In business as in other arenas of life, it is important for us to develop moral wisdom and moral courage: wisdom to recognize when an ethical problem arises, as well as to make sound decisions in situations of moral conflict; and courage to do what we know is right even when there are strong pressures or incentives to do otherwise. Hence, the primary objectives of this course are: 1) to increase your awareness of a wide range of ethical challenges that can arise in business; 2) to enable you to test the strengths and weaknesses of various moral beliefs and ethical arguments relevant to business practices; and 3) to reinforce your personal sense of compassion and fairness in the context of your current or future professional roles.

GRADING

Participation	40 points
Team Debate	20 points
Business Decision Memorandum	20 points
Final Exam	<u>20 points</u>
	100 points

GRADING SCALE

A	100-90 points
B	89-80 points
C	79-70 points
D	69-60 points
F	Below 60 points

COURSE WORK

You will be expected to read the course materials, attend every session, and participate in class discussion of case studies. Successful participation includes providing insight and making persuasive arguments related to the case study that is being discussed.

Team Debate- The class will be divided into teams. A case that presents ethical issues will be debated. Each team will be assigned a position to argue. Team members will be expected to persuasively present and defend their respective positions. The debate will occur during Class 4.

Business Decision Memorandum- You will be given a business situation that involves ethical issues. You will prepare a memorandum, in which you will analyze the situation, present and argue the opportunities and risks attendant to alternative courses of action, recommend a specific course of action, and defend your decision. Your memorandum must be 1,000 to 1,700 words. You must submit your memorandum to the Instructor at the start of Class 7.

Final Exam- The final exam will consist of several case studies that will require analysis, taking into account the subject matter studied and discussed in the course.

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COURSE CONTENT AND ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR

- Class 1 (3/11) *Ethics Theories and Sources of Standard of Personal and Organizational Conduct
*Pre-assignment- Read Chapter 1
- Class 2 (3/18) *Corporate Social Responsibility; Decision Making; Stakeholder Theory
*Pre-assignment- Adelpia, Ahold, Blue Bayou, and Boeing
*Business Memorandum Assigned
- Class 3 (3/25) *Organizational Structure, Culture, and Governance
*Pre-assignment- Bre-X, Conrad Black, Enron, and Google
*Business Ethics Debate Assigned
- Class 4 (3/30) *Ethics and the Environment
*Pre-assignment- HealthSouth, Herman Miller, Interface
*Business Ethics Debate Due
- Class 5 (4/8) *Health Care Ethics in the Workplace
*Pre-assignment- Lucent Technologies, Martha Stewart, McWane, Vioxx
- Class 6 (4/15) *Ethics Issues in Information Technology, E-Business, and the Internet
*Pre-assignment- Livedoor, Music Industry, Parmalat, Perfect Payday
- Class 7 (4/22) *Strategic Planning and Corporate Culture; Ethics in Financial Reporting; Establishing a Code of Ethics
*Pre-assignment- Tyco, VW, Wal-Mart, WorldCom
*Business Memorandum Due
- Class 8 (4/29) *Evaluating Corporate Ethics Programs
*FINAL EXAM