

**MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS INFORMATION**

SEMESTER/YEAR: SPRING 2010

Dean/C
hair
Approv
al

COURSE INFORMATION

CLASS: BUS 643-03 TITLE: BUSINESS ETHICS

MEETING: Saturday, 12:30 - 4:20 PM

DATES: 1/16, 1/30, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24

LOCATION: MAIN CAMPUS; ABAC 2245

PRE-REQUISITES: NONE

**REQUIRED TEXTS: ETHICAL CHALLENGES TO BUSINESS AS USUAL
Collins-Chobanian S. (2005), Upper Saddle River, NJ,
Prentice Hall**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA SACKS

HOME PHONE: 314-994-3219

E-MAIL ADDRESS: barbarasacks@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours by Appointment

SYLLABUS

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE

- COURSE:** BUS 643 – BUSINESS ETHICS
- TEXTBOOK:** ETHICAL CHALLENGES TO BUSINESS AS USUAL
Collins-Chobanian S. (2005), Upper Saddle River, NJ,
Prentice Hall
Current topical readings (current issue analyses) will be
utilized throughout the course.
- OBJECTIVES:** To give students insight into ethical issues faced by
contemporary business.
To analyze issues through application of ethical thinking
models.
To explore moral problems and techniques for arriving
at decisions conforming to ethical
thinking models.
To improve analytical, creative, and presentation skills
relevant to current issues.
- PROCEDURE:** Students will be required to complete reading
assignments for each class session, to present both text
and current issue analyses, and to participate in the
final debate as well as in class discussions of the
assigned chapters.
- ATTENDANCE:** Successful completion of this course depends largely
upon regular class attendance. Therefore, absences,
even if necessary, may deprive the student of a grade
that reflects the student's capabilities and may even
result in failure of the course. Students are to inform
the instructor in advance of a class absence.
- PRESENTATIONS:** Each week class members will present one or more
readings from the text. Presenters will be expected to
bring sufficient copies of their presentations, including
PowerPoint presentations, for class distribution. Class

size will determine the extent of student presentations each week.

GRADES: Final grades will be based upon the following criteria:

	Participation, including current issue analyses	50	p o i n t s
points	Text Presentations	100	
points	Exam 1	100	
points	Exam 2	100	
<u>points</u>	Debate/Final	<u>100</u>	
Points	Total	450	

FINAL GRADE SCALE:

A	94% - 100%
A-	90% - 93%
B+	87% - 89%
B	84% - 86%
B-	80% - 83%
C+	77% - 79%
C	74% - 76%
C-	70% - 73%
D	60% - 69%
F	BELOW 60%

ASSIGNMENTS:

WEEK 1: Chapter 1, ETHICAL AND ECONOMIC THEORETICAL GROUNDING

NOTE: For Week one, in addition to reading Chapter 1, bring to class a current article (from a newspaper, magazine, or internet) demonstrating an ethical issue that you believe confronts American business today. Be prepared to discuss the article and the reasons why you think this issue is important.

WEEK 2: Chapter 2, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES TO DEVELOPMENT

Readings and discussion topics:

- The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The High Cost of Uranium
- Moral Minimums for Multinationals
- The Rio Declaration on Environment And Development
- Ethics and Ecology
- Beyond Sax and Welfare Interests: A Case for Environmental Life

Current Issue Analyses

WEEK 3: Chapter 3, CHALLENGES CALLING FOR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Readings and discussion topics:

- How Organizations Socialize Individuals Into the Evil Doing
- The Social Responsibility Of Business Is to Increase Its Profits
- When Does a Worker's Death Become Murder
- Corporate Responsibility
- The Workers Right To Know, Participate And Refuse Hazardous Work A Manifesto Right
- Stakeholder Theory Of A Modern Corporation

Current Issue Analyses

WEEK 4: EXAM 1

Chapter 4 JUSTIFICATION FOR, AND CHALLENGES TO, PROPERTY RIGHTS

Readings and discussion topics

- Estranged Labor
- The Colonial Dynamic Of Capitalism

- Rich And Poor

WEEK 5: Chapter 5 CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION

Readings and discussion topics

- White Privilege And Male Privilege: A Personal Account Of Coming To See Correspondence Through Work in Women's Studies
- Affirmative Action: The Price Of Preference
- Does Affirmative Action Hurt Its Intended Beneficiaries

Chapter 6 ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES TO BUSINESS

Readings and discussion topics

- The Ethics Of Respect For Nature
- Risk and Justice Capital As Production And The Environment

Current Issue Analyses

WEEK 6: Chapter 7 CHALLENGING MARKET APPROPRIATIONS AND COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Readings and discussion topics

- Animal Liberation
- A Different Path
- The Ford Pinto

Chapter 8 CHALLENGING CONSUMPTION

Readings and discussion topics

- A Proposal For Environmental Labels: Informing Consumers Have Been Real Cost Of Consumption
- The Myth Of Consumer Or Decline
- Whistle Blowing And Professional Responsibility

Current Issue Analyses

Note: During weeks 5 and 6, we will see and discuss the movie, *The Insider*.

WEEK 7: EXAM 2

WEEK 8: DEBATES

- Debate 1

Resolution: It is resolved that American owned businesses have an ethical responsibility to promote environmental stewardship.

- Debate 2

Resolution: It is resolved that it is ethically correct for executive compensation to be tied, by formula, to employee compensation.

- **Debate 3**

Resolution: It is resolved that a business has ethical duties to its employees beyond what is required by law.

Note about the debates: Some debate positions are harder than others to research and present. The debate is graded not on the basis of “win/lose” but rather, it is evaluated on the cogency of arguments, clarity of expression, depth of research and thought. As such, it is an exercise in good research, creative thinking, team effectiveness, and effective presentation.

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO REVISION AND/OR CHANGE COMMENSURATE WITH CLASS PROGRESS AND THE SOLE 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).