

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Business Ethics**

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOP

2074F 552

Instructor Name(s): Ryan Robb

Instructor Email(s): rrobb@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course begins with the assumption that humans have moral duties and responsibilities toward one another. Given that assumption, what duties and responsibilities do they have when they are engaged in the production and transfer of goods and services, i.e., business. Some of the specific topics that will be discussed are: What is the purpose of the Modern Corporation? How are corporations and their individual members related in terms of moral responsibility? What responsibilities do corporations have to society at large? What is the ethical status of advertising?

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

The primary goal of this course is to help students improve their existing abilities to interpret and think critically about the materials they read. The primary means by which this goal will be accomplished are the lectures and the two essay assignments.

The second goal of this course is to introduce students to the ways in which the aforementioned skills have been applied to the ethical issues that arise in the realm of modern business. This goal will be accomplished by assessing students' understanding of these materials in four tests.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All readings and lecture notes will be made available on OWL as the course proceeds. There is no cost to students associated with the course materials.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10
Mid-Term Exam	October 27th	20
Essay #1	November 6	25
Essay #2	December 9th	25

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Final Exam	TBD	20

Friday, August 14, 2026

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In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.