

Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Huron University College
Undergraduate Course Outline
Philosophy 2074F (550): Business Ethics
Summer 2021



Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Julie Ponesse

Class dates: July 5 - July 23, 2021

Class time: M - TH 1:30-4:30 pm

Office hours: By appointment

Email: jponesse@alumni.uwo.ca (primary); also jponess2@huron.uwo.ca

Course content: Delivered entirely on OWL

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Business ethics is the study of business situations, activities and decisions where issues of right and wrong arise. Rarely are these issues simple or straightforward. But while there are no easy answers, there are better or worse ones. We study business ethics to develop tools that help us justify the claim that certain decisions should be evaluated as ethical or unethical, or right or wrong. We will spend the next three weeks developing tools to think about business ethics productively.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, students should have a better grasp of the nature and practice of business ethics, which will be helpful in taking a position on ethical issues in the marketplace. Students will also have the opportunity to develop analytic and communication skills that can be applied in other contexts. Specifically, students should be able to:

- Identify, describe and apply key business ethics concepts

- Identify morally relevant factors in a business case from the perspective of different stakeholders, and derive ethical guidelines to aid in decision-making
- Defend ethical recommendations in a way that concedes their strengths and limitations, and apply them to similar actual and hypothetical business cases
- Paraphrase business ethics arguments and assess their merits
- Research and write a concise position on a current issue in business ethics

COURSE READINGS:

There is no required textbook for this course. All of the required readings will be posted on the Owl site, itself, under the “Resources” tab. That said, if you would like to obtain a text that will help to illuminate some of the topics covered, I recommend:

Damian Grace, Stephen Cohen, and William R. Holmes, *Business Ethics: A Canadian Perspective*, 3rd edition. Available from the Western Bookstore and some online sources such as Amazon.ca.

COURSE DELIVERY:

Lectures for the course will be available Monday - Thursday (July 5-22) starting at 1:30 p.m. (EST) each of those days. You can find the lectures under the “Lessons” tab. Each lecture will run for approximately 1.5 - 2 hours, though you can pause, repeat, etc. at your will. It is advised that you take notes on the lectures just as you would during an in-person class. You will be responsible for the lecture material when it comes to writing the assignments and final exam.

In addition, there will be one live, synchronous tutorial held each week, held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (EST). Primarily, its purpose is to work through questions you have about the material from that week. Tutorial participation will not be graded.

In addition, there will be a synchronous office hour held on Fridays at 10 a.m. I am also happy to offer Zoom appointments on a per request basis. Please email me at jponesse@alumni.uwo.ca to request an appointment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The following course requirements will help you to achieve the above objectives, and they will be used to give you feedback on your progress. All marks will be posted to OWL as they are compiled, and papers will be returned within one week of submission (ideally, sooner).

(1) Two short written assignments (due July 9 and 16 by midnight), each worth 25% of your final grade

Each assignment will consist of two parts. The first part will ask you to demonstrate your understanding of two concepts that featured prominently in the course material for that week (e.g. utilitarianism, stakeholder theory). The second part will ask you to apply your understanding of those concepts to a business ethics case (real or fictional).

The assignments will be relatively short (500 words max.). Since new course material will be given Monday-Friday of each week, you will have a full day to synthesize what you will learn before submitting your assignments. This is a short course and the turn around time will be quick so I encourage you to keep up with the course content (online lectures and readings) throughout the week so that you are well prepared to write your assignments on Fridays.

(2) Final exam (due July 23 by midnight) worth 50% of your final grade

The final exam will follow a take-home format and will build on the skills required for the written assignments. That is, you will be asked to demonstrate your knowledge of key course concepts (via a series of short answer questions) and then apply those concepts to business ethics cases. The exam will be worth 50 points. Specific details about the exam will be posted during the first week of classes.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS, SUBJECT TO CHANGE
GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE**

Week and Topic	Reading (all from course text)
Class #1 (Monday, July 5) <i>Introduction to Ethical Reasoning in Business</i>	No reading
Class #2 (Tuesday, July 6) <i>Ethical Reasoning in Business cont.'d</i>	Chapter 1, pp. 1-10, 12-25, 40-45

Week and Topic	Reading (all from course text)
Class #3 (Wednesday, July 7) <i>Dirty hands</i>	Chapter 2, pp. 48-63
Class #4 (Thursday, July 8) <i>Stockholder and Stakeholder Theory</i>	Chapter 3, pp. 68-75 **First written assignment due July 9 at midnight**
Class #5 (Monday, July 12) <i>Marketing and Advertising Ethics</i>	Chapter 5, pp. 109-124
Class #6 (Tuesday, July 13) <i>Equal Opportunity, Discrimination, and Affirmative Action</i>	Chapter 6, pp. 134-152
Class #7 (Wednesday, July 14) <i>Whistleblowing</i>	Chapter 7, pp. 153-163
Class #8 (Thursday, July 15) Flex class	**Second written assignment due July 16 by midnight**
Class #9 (Monday, July 19) <i>Corporate Governance</i>	Chapter 8, pp. 170-179
Class #10 (Tuesday, July 20) <i>Business and the Environment</i>	Chapter 11, pp. 245-267
Class #11 (Wednesday, July 21) <i>International Business Ethics</i>	Chapter 12, pp. 271-286
Class #12 (Thursday, July 22) <i>Course Review and Exam Preparation</i> <i>(Flex class if needed)</i>	No reading **Final Exam due Friday, July 23 by midnight**



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

3) Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

4) All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>
Learning Development and Success: <https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>
Accessible Education: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca
Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca
Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.