

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16**

**Philosophy 2074G – Business Ethics**

<b>Winter Term 2016</b> <b>M, W, F : 2:30-3:30</b> <b>Classroom: B&amp;GS-0165</b>	<b>Instructor: Dean Proessel</b> <b>Office Hours: Monday- 1:30-2:30</b> <a href="mailto:dproesse@uwo.ca">dproesse@uwo.ca</a>
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**DESCRIPTION**

It is sometimes said that the phrase “business ethics” is an oxymoron. In this course we will attempt to dispel this popular conception. By working our way through many of the moral issues to which the practice of business gives rise, we will show that the interests of business people and moral philosophers converge. Topics include: What is the nature of moral reasoning? Do corporations have social responsibilities? What social responsibilities do corporations have when operating in the global context? Are there universal ethical principles which can guide the conduct of multinational corporations? Do international sweatshops violate human rights? What are the rights of employees in the workplace? Do employees have the right to due process? Is business bluffing ethical? When is advertising ethically questionable? How much information about a product is a corporation morally obligated to disclose to consumers, and how and to whom should this information be disclosed? Can the free market be justified? What is the appropriate level of taxation? What constitutes a just distribution of the goods and services produced by society?

**TEXTS**

*Business In Ethical Focus, An Anthology*, edited by Fritz Allhoff and Anand Vaidya, Broadview Press, 2008

**OBJECTIVES**

In examining the topics and questions mentioned above, students will be expected to achieve the following course objectives:

- Develop an understanding of ethical theory, in particular utilitarianism, deontology, relativism and human rights.

- Develop the ability to reflect on the practice of business from a critical, moral point of view.
- Develop critical reading and writing skills by preparing a term paper.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to keeping up with class readings and participating in class discussions, students will be expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Paper	30%
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Final Exam	40%

## **Submission Guidelines**

All written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*.  
 The penalty for late papers is 10% a day.  
 No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes.

## **POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS**

Please see: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

## **STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests or examinations

## **POLICY 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 Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

## **AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **STATEMENT ON USE OF PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE**

See <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

All written work must be submitted to *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>)

### **ADDITIONAL LINKS**

- Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)
- Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)