

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



COURSE OUTLINE

BSAD 319/JUST 319 – Professional Ethics

Prepared By: Dr. Charles Fenner

**SCHOOL OF
Business and Liberal Arts
May 2010**

BSAD 319/JUST 319 – Professional Ethics

- A. **TITLE:** Professional Ethics
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** BSAD 319/JUST 319
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 Weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall/Spring
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**
3 lecture hours per week.
- H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course acquaints students with the major frameworks for ethical decision making in the professions based on Kantian, Utilitarian and Aristotelian ethics and principles: consequence, liberty, opportunity, need, justice and distributive justice. It examines ethical questions that can arise in the professional practice, the relationship between professionals and clients as well as the connection between ordinary and professional morality.

Students will use analytic tools to recognize and address contemporary ethical dilemmas in the professions of business, criminal justice and computer information systems. Emphasis is placed on analyzing the central questions of ethics and morality while focusing on utilizing ethical theories and principles to solve problems. Students will analyze and synthesize ethical theories that affect thinking, policy formulation, and professional conduct.

- I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:** English 101 and junior level status; or permission of the instructor
- J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**
By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify reasons why the study of ethics is important
- Explain the nature and meaning of business ethics.
- Compare and contrast Kantism, utilitarianism and virtue based ethics
- Compare the duty of employees and the rights of employers
- Clarify the difference between ethics and the law
- Compare and contrast ethical pricing advertising and product usage
- Distinguish between personal morality, virtues and social ethics
- Use ethical theory to solve today's practical problems.
- Explain and review the utilitarian and rights-based justifications for the classical model of corporate social responsibility.
- Describe the stakeholder model of corporate social responsibility
- Explain the ethical foundations of the stakeholder model.
- Distinguish moral rights from legal and contractual rights
- Explain and examine various meanings of a right to work.
- Evaluate arguments supporting an employee right to due process and privacy.
- Assess arguments supporting an employee right to participation in the work environment.
- Examine standard understandings of corporate environmental responsibility.
- Compare and contrast standard economic models with sustainable economies.

K. TEXTS: Desjardins, Joseph Introduction to Business Ethics. 3d Edition. McGraw-Hill. Boston, MA. © 2008. ISBN: 978-0-07-298900-7

L. REFERENCES: John R. Boatright, *Ethics and the Conduct of Business*, 4th edition. Prentice Hall ISBN: 0130991597

James Halpin (ed.), *Good Conversation: An Invitation to Moral Discourse* (2nd Edition), McGraw-Hill Primis Custom Publishing, 2000.

Kenneth S. Pope, Melba J. T. Vasquez, *Ethics in Psychotherapy and Counseling: A Practical Guide*, (1998) Jossey-Bass
ISBN: 0787943061

Karen Judson, Sharon Hicks, *Glencoe Law & Ethics For Medical Careers: Student Text*, Joan E. M. Morgan (2002) McGraw-Hill
ISBN: 047120949X

Marilyn R. Peterson by Marilyn R. Peterson, *At personal Risk: Boundary Violations in Professional-Client Relationship* (April, 1992) W.W. Norton & Company
ISBN: 0393701387

M. EQUIPMENT: Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS: Quizzes, Case Studies, Exams, Debates

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

I. Ethics and the Individual

- A. The Origin of Rights**
- B. When Life Begins and Rights**
- C. Positive Rights/Negative Rights**
- D. The Bill of Rights and the Individual**
- E. Intrinsic and Instrumental Values**
- F. Kohlberg's Moral Development**
 - 1. Altruism**
 - 2. Egoism**
- G. Diffusion of Responsibility**

II. Ethics and Decision Making

- A. Kantian Ethics**
- B. Consequential Ethics**
- C. Aristotelian Ethics**
- D. Feminist Ethics**

III. Ethics and Work

- A. The Definition of Property**
- B. Intrinsic and Instrumental Work**
- C. Distributive Justice**

IV. Ethics and the Workplace

- A. Employer Rights**
 - 1. At-will Employment**
 - 2. Wealth Creation**
 - 3. Surveillance of Employees**
 - 4. Use of Medical Information**
- B. Employee Rights**
 - 1. Due Process**
 - 2. Possessing our Bodies**
 - 3. Free Speech**
 - 4. Safety**
 - 5. Collective Bargaining**
- C. The Balance of Power**
- D. Employee Handbooks/Contracts**
- E. Affirmative Action/Quotas**

V. Ethics and the Marketplace

- A. Price**
- B. Product**
- C. Promotion**

VI. Ethics and Society

- A. The Collective Life**
- B. The Responsibilities of the Citizen**
- C. Our Obligations to the Less Fortunate**

VII. Ethics and the Corporation

- A. Shareholder vs. Stakeholder**
- B. The Environment**
- C. International Issues**