Course Description. A more diverse, technologically changing society produces differing ethical standards that must be examined by managers and business leaders for their application to decisions that are made about tasks and people within the workplace. This course examines the relationship between business (both for-profit and not-for-profit) organizations and society as a whole, and specifically, the responsibility of business to society. This course additionally examines the theories and forms of reasoning about moral problems and ethical dilemmas. The emphasis of the course is on identifying and doing ethics rather than on studying the history of ethics. In this regard, the procedures for reasoning about ethical issues are examined in the context of case studies and analysis of same, which attempt to provide guidance in these issues. The student is encouraged to seek his or her own solution, guided by the theories and approaches discussed.

Course Goals. The goals of the course are for students to gain an understanding of the concepts presented related to personal and business ethics and social responsibility and be able to apply them to their daily and professional lives. At the end of the course, students should have achieved the following course learning objectives:

- Able to articulate an understanding of the concept of ethics.
- Can articulate an understanding of the concept of social responsibility.
- Able to recognize ethical violations in case studies and real life.
- Able to incorporate course concepts into a business ethics & social responsibility reflective journal.
- Can articulate one’s own personal ethics as it relates to business.
Course Conduct. The course presentation is a synthesis of lecture and discussion; student presentations on assigned readings; the creation and development of a business ethics and social responsibility reflective journal; and the presentation of an overview of the journal to the class. Students’ achievement of course learning objectives will be evaluated on the following:

- Participation in class discussion – 20%
- Weekly Ethics Analysis – 10%
- Oral Presentation Major Ethics Analysis – 20%
- Business Ethics & Social Responsibility Reflective Journal – 50%

Grading:

- A+ 96 - 100%
- A 90 - 95
- A- 88 - 89
- B+ 86 - 87
- B 80 - 85
- B- 75 - 79

Required Textbooks:
This text is available free to read online at:
http://students.flatworldknowledge.com/course/1346637

This is key! Critical Thinking.
Remember, in seeking the elusive truth, we have two basic questions to ask:

How do you know?...What does it mean?

I hope you enjoy this shared learning experience.
Course Outline ~ Progression

Session One:
Reading Assignment: (Read prior to class):

Chapter 1: What Is Business Ethics?
1. Introduction and explanation of the course and learning expectations.
2. Discussion of course requirements and assignments.
3. Introduction of course participants.

Topics, Discussion/Activities

What Is Business Ethics?
The Place of Business Ethics
Is Business Ethics Necessary?
Facebook and the Unavoidability of Business Ethics
Overview of the Business Ethics Workshop
Case Studies

   a. Discuss video in the context of personal ethics ~ ethics and law ~ right and wrong
   b. Critical thinking skills (Handout) ~ Ethics Analysis skills (Text)

INQUIRIES DISCUSSION:
   a. Discuss what these will involve
   b. Assign and develop presenters’ schedule.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE ADDRESSED: 1, 2 & 3.

Session Two:
Reading Assignment: (Read prior to class)

Chapter 2: Theories of Duties and Rights: Traditional Tools for Making Decisions in Business When the Means Justify the Ends

Topics, Discussion/Activities
The Means Justify the Ends versus the Ends Justify the Means
Perennial Duties
Immanuel Kant: The Duties of the Categorical Imperative
Rights
Case Studies

Chapter 3: Theories of Consequence Ethics: Traditional Tools for Making Decisions in Business when the Ends Justify the Means

Topics, Discussion/Activities
What Is Consequentialism?
Utilitarianism: The Greater Good
Altruism: Everyone Else
Egoism: Just Me
Case Studies

Chapter 4: Theories Responding to the Challenge of Cultural Relativism

Topics, Discussion/Activities
What Is Cultural Relativism?
Nietzsche’s Eternal Return of the Same
Cultural Ethics
Virtue Theory
Discourse Ethics
Ethics of Care
The Cheat Sheet: Rules of Thumb in Applied Ethics
Case Studies

LEARNING OBJECTIVES ADDRESSSED: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.
Session Three:
Reading Assignment: (Read prior to class)

Chapter 5: Employee’s Ethics: What’s the Right Job for Me?

Topics, Discussion/Activities
Finding Jobs to Want
Working for Ethically Complicated Organizations
Case Studies

VIDEO: “Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices.”

INQUIRIES DISCUSSION:

a. Subject: 
   Presenter(s): 

b. Subject: 
   Presenter(s): 

c. Subject: 
   Presenter(s): 

d. Subject: 
   Presenter(s): 

e. Subject: 
   Presenter(s): 

LEARNING OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Notes
Session Four:
Reading Assignment: (Read prior to class)

Chapter 6: Employee’s Ethics: Getting a Job, Getting a Promotion, Leaving

Topics, Discussion/Activities
The Résumé Introduction
What Am I Worth?
Plotting a Promotion
Looking for a Better Job Outside the Company
Take This Job and…
Case Studies

Chapter 7: Employee’s Ethics: Making the Best of the Job You Have as You Get from 9 to 5

Topics, Discussion/Activities
Taking Advantage of the Advantages: Gifts, Bribes, and Kickbacks
Third-Party Obligations: Tattling, Reporting, and Whistle-Blowing
Company Loyalty
Status, and Slacking: What Are the Ethics of Making It through the Typical Workday?
Case Studies


INQUIRIES DISCUSSION:

a. Subject: ____________________________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ________________________________________________________________________

b. Subject: ____________________________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ________________________________________________________________________

c. Subject: ____________________________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ________________________________________________________________________

d. Subject: ____________________________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ________________________________________________________________________

e. Subject: ____________________________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ________________________________________________________________________

LEARNING OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.
Session Five:
Reading Assignment: (Read prior to class)

Chapter 8: Manager’s Ethics: Getting, Promoting, and Firing Workers

Topics, Discussion/Activities
Hiring
Wages
Promoting Employees
Firing
Case Studies

Chapter 9: Manager’s Ethics: Deciding on a Corporate Culture and Making It Work

Topics, Discussion/Activities
What Is Corporate Culture?
The Relation between Organizational Culture and Knowing the Right Thing to Do
Two Ethically Knotted Scenes of Corporate Culture: Clothes and Grooming
What Culture Should a Leader Choose to Instill?
Styles and Values of Management
Case Studies

VIDEO:

INQUIRIES DISCUSSION:

a. Subject: ________________________________

   Presenter(s): ________________________________

b. Subject: ________________________________

   Presenter(s): ________________________________

c. Subject: ________________________________

   Presenter(s): ________________________________

d. Subject: ________________________________

   Presenter(s): ________________________________

e. Subject: ________________________________

   Presenter(s): ________________________________

LEARNING OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.
Session Six:
Reading Assignment: (Read prior to class)

Chapter 10: The Tense Office: Discrimination, Victimization, and Affirmative Action

Topics, Discussion/Activities
Racial Discrimination
Gender Discrimination and Occupational Segregation
Discrimination: Inferiority versus Aptness
The Diversity of Discrimination and Victimization
The Prevention and Rectification of Discrimination: Affirmative Action
Case Studies

Chapter 11: The Aroused Office: Sex and Drugs at Work

Topics, Discussion/Activities
Is There Anything Special about Sex?
Bad Sex: Harassment
Drugged
The Organization Wants You to Use Drugs?
Case Studies

VIDEO:
INQUIRIES DISCUSSION:

a. Subject: __________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ______________________________________

b. Subject: __________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ______________________________________

c. Subject: __________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ______________________________________

d. Subject: __________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ______________________________________

e. Subject: __________________________________________
   Presenter(s): ______________________________________

LEARNING OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.
Session Seven:
Reading Assignment: (Read prior to class)

Chapter 12: The Selling Office: Advertising and Consumer Protection

Topics, Discussion/Activities
Two Kinds of Advertising
Do Ads Need to Tell the Truth?
We Buy, Therefore We Are: Consumerism and Advertising
Consumers and Their Protections
Case Studies

Chapter 13: The Responsible Office: Corporations and Social Responsibility

Topics, Discussion/Activities
What Kind of Business Organizations Are There?
Three Theories of Corporate Social Responsibility
Should Corporations Have Social Responsibilities? The Arguments in Favor
Should Corporations Have Social Responsibilities? The Arguments Against
Case Studies

INQUIRIES DISCUSSION:

a. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

b. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

c. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

d. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

e. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

LEARNING OBJECTIVES Addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

........................................................................................................................................
Session Eight:
Reading Assignment: (Read prior to class)

Chapter 14: The Green Office: Economics and the Environment

Topics, Discussion/Activities

The Environment
Ethical Approaches to Environmental Protection
Three Models of Environmental Protection for Businesses
Animal Rights
Case Studies

Chapter 15: The Domination Office: The Star System and Labor Unions

Topics, Discussion/Activities

What Is the Star System?
Questions Provoked by the Star System
Ethics: Justifying and Criticizing the Star System
Unions
Union Strikes
Case Studies

INQUIRIES DISCUSSION:

a. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

b. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

c. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

d. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

e. Subject: _____________________________________________________________
   Presenter(s): __________________________________________________________

LEARNING OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED: 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.