BUS 603 Ethics and Social Responsibility (3)

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Catalog Description:

A more diverse, technologically changing society produces differing ethical standards that must be examined by leaders for their application to decisions 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. Students will focus on learning how to think ethically and critically in planning, decision-making, evaluating, and problem solving. (Required core course).

Course Description:

Ethics is the search to discover what human actions are right and wrong as well as how to best live in the world. Our focus will be on business as any organization that provides a product or service to others. In this class we will study the standards or principles which can help us make sound decisions. These standards can assist us in critically thinking through the right course of action to take in decision making whether it be in planning, problem-solving or anything affecting the stakeholders of an organization which benefits from the public by its service or product.

The class will use a variety of methods in exploring ethical decision making in business. Class discussion, case studies, team research and presentation, readings and lecture are formats that will be used to promote understanding and use of ethical decision making in business.

Required Text:

Good to Great, Jim Collins ISBN 0-06-662099-6 (hc)

Course Objectives:

This course encourages the application of ethics to many important issues that arise in the business and professional world. Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. demonstrate competency in analyzing and evaluating case studies/scenarios.
2. apply ethical principles and theories to arrive at socially responsible solutions;
3. demonstrate the ability to conduct an ethical audit of a business;
4. understand the basis for their own ethical decision making;
5. understand the importance of utilizing ethical principles in the workplace.

Course Requirements:

To enroll for the course, you must have a Doane e-mail address and access to the Internet. Your computer must have Microsoft Word.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Student participation and contribution to case studies and discussion is a major part of the class grade. Students must contact the instructor before or within three days of an absence to arrange for an appropriate substitution for class participation. Failure to contact the instructor will result in an unexcused absence and a reduced grade. Students may
miss no more than one class and merit an A except if there are extraordinary circumstances.

Missing more than two classes will result in a failure.

The following activities and assignments will be used to comprise grades for the class.

Class Participation – 200 Possible Points. Evidence of completion of assigned readings and work and active participation during class.

Written Assignments – 100 Possible Points. Completion and submission of case studies, ethical audit of your place of business, and personal ethical orientation as assigned. Assignments are to be completed when due. Late submission of an assignment without prior instructor approval will result in a reduced grade.

Team Project – 100 Possible Points. Research and development of a presentation of one component of a business ethical management issue as part of a team presentation. Total Possible Points - 400

Grading Scale:

100 – 95 = A
94 – 90 = A-
89 – 87 = B+
86 – 84 = B
83 – 80 = B-
79 – 77 = C+
76 – 74 = C
73 – 70 = C-
69 – 67 = D+
66 – 64 = D
63 – 60 = D-
59 & below = F

Academic Integrity Policy:

The Doane Academic Integrity Policy will be followed in this class.