Course Description: Simply put, ethics involves learning what is right or wrong, and then doing the right thing – but “the right thing” in business is not nearly as straightforward as that. Most ethical dilemmas in the workplace are not simply a matter of “Should Bob steal from Jack” or “Should Jack lie to his boss?” In the daily scramble to get ahead, earn a profit, and outwit competitors, some people don’t play by the rules. Media attention and popular writings seem to always detail the misdeeds, but there are many more companies that behave! It is important to consider both the positive business models for their value as well as review the issues of controversy as ways to explore ethical issues. What is corporate ethical decision-making and behavior? How do others emulate it?

Classic cases will be explored and expect lively discussion and class interaction on a variety of in-class ethical case studies.

Course Objectives: Using critical thinking and thoughtful ethical analysis each will example and contemplate the following:

1. Formal and informal ethical guidelines and theories
2. Exploration of one’s personal ethical standards and values profile
3. Consideration of methods of addressing and resolving business and professional ethical dilemmas
4. Review and assess organizational ethical effectiveness
5. Determine ethical ways to select and develop employees
6. Examine current day business practices
7. Personal experiences within one’s own professional life

Learning Strategies: Students will fulfill course objectives through:

1. Individual reading and reflection on assignments
2. Discussion, debate and case study review and analysis

3. Exploration of strategies that impact an organization’s ethical culture

4. Individual project and presentation (assigned by instructor) that includes in-depth exploration of a significant ethical issue

Assignments and Grading: Attendance is critical to learning and understanding in this class. There is a significant amount of discussion, debate and case study exploration. A portion of your grade is based on your attendance and in class participation. Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classes. Active participation means being involved in the class and demonstrating via discussion contributions that you completed the assignments in advance of class. All members of the class are expected to participate in delivering your final project. Failure to deliver in person results in a loss of at least 10 points.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

This policy requires that you immediately and cheerfully offer the benefit of your knowledge and skills to any fellow student who needs your help. If someone helps you, whether a fellow student, the author of a book/article, a family member, a pastor or priest, a coworker, a child, a pet, or anyone else, say that they helped you. That’s called citing a source. Always show respect for the ideas or words of others by giving them the credit. Failure to show respect will result in an “F”