BUS 603 Ethics and Social Responsibility
Instructor: Janice Hadfield
(402) 466-4774
Janice.hadfield@doane.edu

IMPORTANT NOTE:
New regulations under the Higher Education Act require us to verify the identity of a person doing work in a class if we receive assignments, etc. from that student electronically. We can comply with this regulation if our students submit things to teachers electronically from their Doane College e-mail address or through Blackboard, because the college issued that address, ID, and password. For that reason, I can only send assignments to your Doane e-mail address, and I can only accept assignments submitted to me from your Doane e-mail address.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A more diverse, technologically changing society produces differing ethical standards that must be examined by managers 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).

READINGS

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. understand the importance of utilizing ethical principles in the workplace;
4. have a clear understanding of their own view of ethics, the foundation upon which that view is based, and why it is crucial in explaining and justifying what they value.

PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE: To learn standards or principles that can help us make more enlightened and 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 who benefit from its service or product.

Ethics is the search to find the most responsible way to act in any situation. Sometimes it takes time to determine what the best way is, especially when multiple factors must be considered; or when new information is obtained. Ethics is the “light” to guide us on the right path. It provides us with good questions and considerations as we try to discern the best course of action.

Some Assumptions:
• Businesses cannot survive without stakeholders (including employees locally, nationally and internationally; stockholders; clients; people in the general area, and others).
• Since business (for-profit or not-for-profit) benefits from stakeholders, it has a responsibility to give back to the community a share of its profits, time, and talents.
• Good ethical decision-making is enriched by a broad spectrum of input. Therefore diverse opinions should be considered. The more complex the decision, the more important it is to weigh the information gathered through many points of view.
• People can learn to work together, even in difficult circumstances, in order to act in a way that shows they are socially responsible.
• Social responsibility includes acting in the best interests of society. From a business perspective, this means contributing directly to the general welfare of a community (particularly in the area of the business itself); exercising due care with respect to employees no matter where they work (at home or abroad), by creating a safe environment--physically and emotionally--in which to work, providing just wages and creating an atmosphere which does not cause duress by overwork or other undue hardships; serving the best interest of clients/customers; respecting the quality of the environment in which the business resides; showing leadership in promoting the general welfare of the local community and whatever other communities served.
• For-profit businesses must be concerned about making a profit for their stockholders. But if the business is only concerned with making profit, regardless of the impact on customers, employees, and the community at large, it is not acting in a socially responsible manner.
• There are many good ways of demonstrating social responsibility, but there are always better ways, and it is the business of business to work always to find better ways to act in the best interest of its stakeholders (as defined above).
• Not-for-profit businesses or organizations are typically funded in a variety of ways. They, too, must exercise social responsibility towards all their stakeholders (as defined above) in a similar matter in all the areas mentioned.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
This course will be conducted on the World Wide Web. Students will complete a total of four assignments designed to meet the stated objectives of the course.

To enroll for the course, you must have an e-mail address and access to the Internet. Your computer must have Microsoft Word. For this course, students will complete a total of four (4) assignments. Each completed assignment will be e-mailed to the instructor no later than the due date listed below. Upon receipt of a completed assignment, the next assignment will be e-mailed to the student. Students may submit assignments earlier than the due date.

The due dates for the assignments are as follows:
Assignment #1 due April 1st = 25 points
Assignment #2 due April 15th = 25 points
Assignment #3 due April 29th = 25 points
Assignment #4 due May 13th = 25 points

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:**
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”.