

# BUSINESS ETHICS



AI SYLLABUS 

# Business Ethics

## Course Description:

This course explores ethical issues in business, including ethical decision-making frameworks, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, and diversity and inclusion. Students will examine the role of ethics in business practices and develop the critical thinking skills necessary to navigate complex ethical dilemmas in the workplace.

## Course Goals:

- Understand the key ethical theories and principles that guide ethical decision-making in business contexts, and be able to apply these frameworks to real-world ethical dilemmas.
- Appreciate the importance of ethics in business practices, including the potential risks of unethical behavior and the benefits of ethical behavior for stakeholders, including customers, employees, and shareholders.
- Analyze and evaluate the impact of corporate social responsibility, sustainability, and diversity and inclusion on business practices and the ethical implications of these initiatives.
- Develop critical thinking skills that allow students to evaluate ethical issues and make informed ethical decisions in a variety of business contexts.
- Develop a personal code of ethics that reflects their own values and guides their professional conduct in the workplace.

## Course Outline:

### **Week 1: Introduction to Business Ethics**

1. Ethical theories and principles
2. The role of ethics in business
3. Case studies in business ethics

### **Week 2: Ethical Decision-Making**

1. Utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics
2. Developing an ethical decision-making framework
3. Applying ethical decision-making to real-world business situations

### **Week 3: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**

1. The concept of CSR
2. The impact of CSR on business practices
3. Measuring CSR impact

### **Week 4: Sustainability**

1. Environmental sustainability in business
2. Social sustainability in business
3. Economic sustainability in business

### **Week 5: Diversity and Inclusion**

1. The importance of diversity and inclusion in business practices
2. Strategies for promoting diversity and inclusion in the workplace
3. The impact of diversity and inclusion on organizational culture

### **Week 6: Ethics and Technology**

1. Ethical issues related to technology in business practices
2. The impact of technology on privacy and data security
3. Artificial intelligence and automation

## **Grading and Evaluation:**

Class participation: 20%

Case studies and ethical decision-making assignments: 40%

Final project: 40%

Late work policy: Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date with a penalty of 10%. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory. More than three absences will result in a reduction in the participation grade.

## **Course Resources:**

**Textbook:** [Business Ethics: Concepts and Cases by Manuel Velasquez](#)

**Required readings:** Articles and case studies will be assigned each week

**Additional readings:** [The Power of Ethical Management by Norman Bowie](#), [The Responsibility Revolution by Jeffrey Hollender and Bill Breen](#), [The Triple Bottom Line by Andrew Savitz and Karl Weber](#)

**Software:** None required

**Industry associations and groups:** The Ethics and Compliance Initiative (ECI), The International Business Ethics Institute (IBEI), The Society for Business Ethics (SBE)  
**Other resources:** TED Talks, business ethics blogs, relevant podcasts

## Required Readings:

1. Business Ethics: Concepts and Cases by Manuel Velasquez, 8th edition, Pearson. (<https://a.co/d/cZKgeRn>)
2. Business Ethics: Managing Corporate Citizenship and Sustainability in the Age of Globalization by Andrew Crane and Dirk Matten, 4th edition, Oxford University Press. (<https://a.co/d/hZ7hyQi>)
3. The Responsible Business: Reimagining Sustainability and Success by Carol Sanford, Jossey-Bass. (<https://a.co/d/9DKpOXT>)
4. Stakeholder Theory: The State of the Art by R. Edward Freeman, Cambridge University Press. (<https://a.co/d/8PvhUEe>)
5. Moral Mazes: The World of Corporate Managers by Robert Jackall, Oxford University Press. (<https://a.co/d/4Hxxr5o>)
6. The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power by Joel Bakan, Free Press. (<https://a.co/d/b8ive1g>)
7. Capitalism and Freedom by Milton Friedman, University of Chicago Press. (<https://a.co/d/6vbmBHq>)

## Classroom Policies:

- Attendance: Regular attendance is expected and will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are responsible for attending all classes and arriving on time.
- Participation: Class participation is essential to the success of this course. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and activities, ask questions, and engage with the course material.
- Late assignments: Late assignments will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor. Students are encouraged to submit assignments on time, and to communicate with the instructor in advance if an extension is needed.

- Academic integrity: Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Accessibility statement: The instructor is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible learning environment for all students. Students with disabilities or who require accommodations are encouraged to speak with the instructor or contact the university's office of disability services to request accommodations.
- Accommodations: The university provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students who require accommodations should contact the university's office of disability services as soon as possible to request accommodations. The instructor will work with the student and the office of disability services to ensure that reasonable accommodations are provided.