DeSales University
CR503: Business & Society

Course Description

An exploration of the rights, responsibilities, problems, and opportunities facing the business manager operating within a system in which the demands and expectations of the social, political, and legal subsystems often compete or conflict with purely economic factors normally affecting internal managerial decision-making and behavior of a firm. Issues of ethics and values, as they operate in an increasingly pluralistic society, will be stressed. The concept of corporate responsibility to stakeholders will be examined in some depth. The course will explore alternative responses to the question "To whom is the corporation responsible, and for what?"

III.   Course Objectives

Consistent with the course description, the goal of this section of CR503 is to enable students to develop an ethical sensibility and conscience informed by a cognitively cogent set of complementary normative ethical principles and a corresponding method of ethical decision-making.

There are, accordingly, two kinds of objectives for instruction and learning in this section of CR503:

- Theoretical: Information Content

- Practical: Skill Sets

These course objectives assume, moreover, that effective & efficient practice is inseparable from comprehensive theoretical understanding.

Theoretical Objectives

A student actively participating in this section of CR503 will become familiar with - - -

> The social environs of business, including relevant information about markets, the rule of law, and political institutions

> The normative ethical theories typically used to assess and evaluate the behavior of individuals, organizations, and agencies in those social environs

Practical Objectives

A student actively participating in this section of CR503 will become familiar with - - -

> The generic <u>critical</u> <u>thinking</u> <u>skills</u> of comparison, contrast, analogy, distinction, definition, abstraction, generalization, analysis, synthesis, and cogent argument as they pertain to the course's theoretical objectives

> The methods of deliberative ethics needed by supervisors, managers, or executive leaders to be effective participants in ethics code development or administration, including the related policy development and policy administration roles

See the accompanying Course *Seminar* Guide for detail as to how these objectives relate to the course description.

IV.   <u>Learning Outcomes</u>

There are, corresponding to the course objectives, two kinds of outcomes of instruction and learning in this section of CR503:

- Theoretical: Information Content

- Practical: Skill Sets

These course outcomes assume, moreover, that effective & efficient practice is inseparable from comprehensive theoretical understanding.

<u>Theoretical Outcomes</u>

Students actively participating in this section of CR503, as they become increasingly familiar with the <u>social</u> <u>environs</u> <u>of</u> <u>business</u> and the <u>normative</u> <u>ethical</u> <u>theories</u>, will be able to use that information to - - -

> Further their understanding and appreciation of the concept of *well being* as it pertains to individuals, organizations, and agencies in the social environs of business

> Be an effective participant on ethics teams as well as in policy formulation

<u>Practical Outcomes</u>

Students actively participating in this section of CR503, as they become increasingly familiar with the <u>social</u> <u>environs</u> <u>of</u> <u>business</u> and the <u>normative</u>

ethical theories, will be able to use that information to demonstrate proficiency through - - -

> CRE: Critical Reading Exercises: Demonstrate the use of relevant critical thinking skills by completing four (4) critical reading exercises pertaining to the social environs of business

> ISE: Internet Search Exercises: Demonstrate proficiency in online research by completing four (4) internet search exercises pertaining to the social environs of business

> ARB: Annotated Research Bibliography: Demonstrate proficiency in research resources assessment and evaluation by producing one (1) annotated research bibliography

> SCS: Scenario Case Study: Demonstrate proficiency with the normative ethical theories and related principles by acting, under controlled conditions, in the role of an ethicist assigned to deliberate on an ethical scenario and produce a scenario case study

> CIE: Critical Issue Essay: Demonstrate proficiency with the normative ethical theories and related principles by acting, under controlled conditions, in the role of a business ethics researcher who has chosen to address a critical ethical issue germane to the social environs of business in a substantial critical issue essay

See the accompanying Course *Seminar* Guide for detail as to how these outcomes relate to the course description.

V.   Methods

On-site Teaching & Learning

Teaching Methods: Lectures; Discussion

Learning Methods: Text Content Reading; Lecture; Discussion; Critical Reading Exercises; Internet Search Exercises; Scenario Case Study; Critical Research; Critical Issue Essay

On-line Teaching & Learning

Teaching Methods: Chat Discussion; Critical Peer Collaborations

Learning Methods: Text Content Reading; Chat Discussion; Critical Reading Exercises; Internet Search Exercises; Scenario Case Study; Critical Research; Critical Issue Essay

See the accompanying Course *Seminar* Guide for detail as to how these onsite & online methods are related to the course description.

See the accompanying Course *Schedule* Guide for the schedule of weekly textbook reading and the due dates for required course assignments.

See the Course *Seminar* Guide for information concerning online and/or onsite library work required and/or expected.

VI.   Evaluation

Student performance will be assessed in terms of the following *individual performance* requirements:

- CRE: Critical Reading Exercises [10% of Grade]

- ISE: Internet Search Exercises [10% of Grade]

- SCS: Scenario Case Study [30% of Grade]

- ARB: Annotated Research Bibliography [10% of Grade]

- CIE: Critical Issue Essay [40% of Grade]

These *individual performance* requirements are designed to be equivalent in time and effort corresponding to the typical content of a rigorous graduate-level "B-school" core course.

The course evaluation requirements have a maximum combined value of 1000 points, awarded on the basis of the DeSales University *Grading System* criteria as articulated in the *DeSales University Graduate Catalog*. The following table shows the 1-1 correspondence between the course point accumulation schedule and % grade calculations suggested to DeSales MBA faculty. It also displays the corresponding GPA quality points corresponding to each final course grade. In accordance with that system, the final course grade "evaluation points" for this course will be distributed as follows:

Grade	% Range	Points	GPA
A	100.0 – 93.0	1000 – 930	4.0
A –	92.9 – 90.0	929 – 900	3.7
B+	89.9 – 87.0	899 – 870	3.3
B	86.9 – 83.0	869 – 830	3.0
B –	82.9 – 80.0	829 – 800	2.7
C+	79.9 – 77.0	799 – 770	2.3
C	76.9 – 73.0	769 – 730	2.0
C –	72.9 – 70.0	729 – 700	1.7
D+	N/A	N/A	1.3
D	N/A	N/A	1.0
F	69.9 – 00.0	699 – 000	0.0

These range and point distributions are consistent with the "letter equivalencies for letter grades" illustrated in the *MBA Faculty Handbook* [Revised 5/16/05].

See the Course *Requirements* Guide for information concerning the successful completion of the required assignments.

VII.   Attendance

The following is the attendance policy of the DeSales University MBA program, which all MBA faculty are expected to enforce:

> Students are expected to attend class regularly. If absences do occur (for whatever reason), it is the student's responsibility to make up whatever work has been missed. Instructors are under no obligation to make special arrangements for students who are absent. Permission to make up missed examinations may be given at the discretion of the instructor. Consistent class attendance is a must for many reasons, not the least of which is the obvious fact that it is very difficult to contribute to, participate in, or profit from classroom discussions and other activities if you are not present. Discuss unavoidable absences with the instructor in advance, if possible, and do whatever is necessary to make-up missed work. A record of two absences with prior approval of the instructor may be acceptable. Any more than that would have an adverse impact on the grade.
>
> *Four or more absences will result in an automatic failing grade.*

If you have any questions about this policy, please direct them to your MBA academic advisor.

See the Course *Seminar* Guide for more information concerning both *on-site* and *on-line* course attendance & related peer participation requirements.

VIII. References / Bibliography

See the accompanying Course *Texts* Guide for recommendations for supplementary reading resources.

See the Course *Requirements* Guide for information concerning library work required and/or expected.

See or contact me for guidance regarding bibliographic resources for specific course topics.

IX.   Plagiarism

Please consult the *Graduate Catalog* for the *"Plagiarism Policy"* of DeSales University.

Plagiarism is representing the unique thoughts or works of another <u>as</u> your own. It involves giving the impression, implicit or explicit, that you yourself have thought, written, or produced something that has, in fact, been appropriated from someone else. Plagiarism can result from careless exposition, e.g., closely paraphrasing a piece of work without due acknowledgment to the original source. More seriously, it involves the outright copying of the intellectual work, printed or otherwise, of another person and then submitting it <u>as</u> your own.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated!

<u>First Incident</u>: You will be required to redo & resubmit, in its entirety, any required submission containing any instance of plagiarism. You will have exactly one week to complete this revision, which will be treated as a late submission, resulting in a loss of appropriate evaluation points.

<u>Further Incidents</u>: You will receive "0" evaluation points for each additional infraction. Your case will also be submitted, along with evidence of the plagiarism, to the MBA Director for further action.

Schedule

Week	Assigned Prior Reading
1	<u>Syllabus</u>: Guides: Schedule / Texts / Requirements / Seminar
2	ABV-1: Free Market Values
3	ABV-2: Moral Development
4	ABV-3: Ethical Business Behaviors *Normative* & *Deliberative* Ethics
5	ETB-1: Ethical Theory / Business Practice *Normative* & *Deliberative* Ethics
6	ETB-10: Social & Economic Justice

Assigned Readings: Source Codes

Week	Assigned Prior Reading
7	**CIE: Online Research Week** **[No Chat Session]**
8	ABV-4: Historical Contexts
9	ABV-5: Ideological Contexts ABV-6: Critiques of Capitalism
10	ABV-7: Organizational Values ETB-3: Corporate Organization
11	ABV-8: Organizational Performance ETB-2: Corporate Management
12	ABV-9: Globalization & USA Values ABV-10: Future Business Values