UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY
SPRING 2018

COURSE NUMBER: BLAW 4340.01
COURSE TITLE: BUSINESS ETHICS

INSTRUCTOR: TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Associate Professor of Business Law

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of ethical problems in business and the foundations for decisions involving ethical issues, with emphasis on ethical decision making for accountants. Students will be expected to engage in critical thinking in analyzing a variety of ethical situations. Topics include ethical reasoning, integrity, objectivity; independence, individual conscience, loyalty and responsibility conflict, as they impact on the ethical decision making process in the functional areas of business.

TEACHING METHOD: Lecture, case analysis, group presentations and class discussion.
OFFICE & PHONE NUMBER: BUS 121; 566-7217 (office)
OFFICE HOURS: Tues/Thurs 12:30PM-2:00; Mon/Wed 10:00AM-1:00 (or by Appointment)
E-mail: tcowart@uttyler.edu
Course Information: http://www.uttyler.edu/canvas/index.php
ALL GRADES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC. WILL BE POSTED ON CANVAS. Please check Canvas regularly for updates and course information. Per University requirements, class information will be posted to Canvas and/or sent to your Patriot email account through Canvas. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with emails and announcements.

TOPICS COVERED:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical Reasoning</td>
<td>9 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical Corporate Governance</td>
<td>9 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; Culture Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics Policy &amp; Procedures</td>
<td>9 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workplace Integrity &amp; Objectivity</td>
<td>4 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>6.5 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37.5 hrs.</td>
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</table>

Student Evaluation: Your final semester grade will be based on exams, a debate paper and presentation, ethics simulation, response paper, and class participation. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

1. Exams (3) 300 pts
2. Debate/Presentation 75
3. Simulation Ex. 25
4. Response Paper 25
5. Yellow Dig 25
6. Participation 50

Total 500

Grades will be determined based on your total number of points earned, as follows:

A = 448-500
B = 398-447
C = 348-397
D = 298-347
1. Exams: Two semester exams and a final exam will be given, each worth 100 points. The exams will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. These questions will require you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of substantive concepts and terminology, as well as the ability to apply the concepts to specific fact situations. Neither the semester exams nor the final will be comprehensive. **MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN. IF YOU CANNOT TAKE AN EXAM AT THE SCHEDULED TIME, YOU MUST CONTACT ME PRIOR TO THE EXAM AND ARRANGE AN ALTERNATE TEST TIME.**

2. Debate Paper/Presentation/YellowDig: The class will be divided into groups of approximately 4-5 people. Each group will be assigned to a research topic relating to business ethics, and your debate group will research and develop arguments either for or against your assigned topic. A discussion board site will be available for your group to develop arguments in support of your topic. Dates are designated in the syllabus for debate presentations. To allow the rest of us to be prepared for your debate, you will each be required to post your research to YellowDig, a free social learning site. Additional details will be provided on Blackboard. To complete this assignment, you will need to pin articles to YellowDig and comment on articles pinned by others. **This is worth 25 points.**

   Your group will present your arguments to the class on your assigned day. Debate presentations will be no more than 40 minutes for both groups including Q&A. Your debate will be graded on how well you address the ethical issues and questions posed, additional issues from outside research, as well as your use of proper speech technique (diction, eye contact, use of filler words, etc.). The presentation will be made in front of the class, and each student in the group is expected to speak. A Q&A session will follow each debate in which you should be prepared to answer questions from your colleagues. **This is worth 25 points.**

   Along with your presentation, your group will turn in a 6-7 page paper, double-spaced and typed in 12 point font, which presents your group’s argument. To successfully complete the paper, you must engage in outside research to gather information. Your assessment should evaluate, for example, ethical issues, how the company reacted, what should have been done to prevent the problem, or how the company should prevent such situations in the future, as well as any additional issues pertinent to the topic. Written papers are due in class on the day of the presentation. **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** You will be graded on your completion of the assignment as directed, as well as your grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and paragraph organization. In addition, **I expect you to properly cite to other sources when you use them according to the APA or MLA format. This is worth 50 points.**

3. Ethics Simulation: Each team will complete a behavioral ethics simulation. During the simulation you will assume a role within an organization and deal with an ethical dilemma from the perspective of that individual. You will each be given different roles within the organization and come together to collectively resolve a company-wide ethics issue. Group recommendations will be made in the form of a short managerial report (1 per team – 2-3 pages each) addressing the group’s short-term, mid-range, and long-term recommendations for the company. These will be completed in class, and **you must be present to receive credit.**

4. Response Paper: This requires one essay of 3-4 doubled spaced, typed pages where you will respond to a set of questions based on your personal experiences. Write in complete sentences, with no misspelled words and no major grammatical errors. Inevitably, there is subjectivity in reading and grading essays, but I seek to apply a consistent standard and to distribute grades in a fair and equitable manner. I will not grade you based on whether I agree with you or like your conclusions; I will reward strong reasoning, relevance to and application of ethical concepts developed in class and class materials, and good writing.

5. Class Participation: We will discuss chapters, articles and cases in class as assigned in the syllabus, and you should be prepared to discuss all assigned material. Your preparation (or lack of preparation) to discuss a case or chapter will be noted. In addition, classroom professionalism should be maintained at all times. When the instructor is speaking or when students are presenting their work, the classroom should be silent. Cell phones should be “turned off” during class, laptop computers used for class activities, and students are expected to wear professional dress during presentations. Also, your group members will evaluate your
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Tue/Thur 2:00-3:20 pm

efforts in preparation for the team presentation, and that evaluation will be included in this grade. In addition, your attendance throughout the semester will be used as a component in your participation grade. Attendance will be taken from a sign-in sheet that will be circulated during class. You will only receive attendance credit if you attend ALL of the class.

**CBT CORE VALUES**
- PROFESSIONAL PROFICIENCY
- TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCE
- GLOBAL AWARENESS
- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- ETHICAL COURAGE

**OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THIS COURSE INCLUDE:**
Mastery of the objectives as demonstrated by satisfactory completion of questions on each of three exams; Satisfactory completion of project, paper, and simulations.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**
1. **KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE INCLUDE:**
   - Demonstrate understanding of theories of ethical reasoning
   - Understand ethical issues in governance, accounting and auditing
   - Analyze and apply ethics policies and procedures
   - Analyze the cause and effect of ethics risks
   - Demonstrate knowledge of social responsibility issues
   - Understand the role of organizational mechanisms to support ethical decision making
   - Effectively utilize outside resources in supporting case analysis and class discussion

2. **COMPETENCIES TO BE DEMONSTRATED IN THIS COURSE INCLUDE:**
   1. **COMPUTER-BASED SKILLS:**
      A. WORD PROCESSING: Preparation of project and paper.
      B. INTERNET SEARCH SKILLS: Research of project paper
      C. PRESENTATION SOFTWARE: Use power point to prepare presentation slides for project

2. **COMMUNICATION SKILLS:**
   A. WRITTEN
      a. REPORT ORGANIZATION: Preparation of project paper
      b. REFERENCING: Use of proper reference in project paper according to APA format
   B. ORAL: Class project

3. **INTERPERSONAL SKILLS:**
   A. TEAM-BASED ABILITIES: Requires inter-group cooperation to prepare for project and complete simulations in class

4. **PROBLEM SOLVING (CRITICAL THINKING):**
   A. CONCEPTUAL THINKING: Use ethical theories to determine ethical outcomes in a variety of business situations
   B. CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION: Use ethical theories and ethics cases to find alternative ways to solve ethical dilemmas

5. **ETHICAL ISSUES IN DECISION MAKING AND BEHAVIORS:** Discuss ethical problems and cases regarding ethical reasoning, governance, corporate culture and ethics policies and procedures

6. **PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACHIEVEMENT:** Students must monitor grade progress, and all projects must be completed on time. No make-up work is allowed.
7. COMPETENCE IN BASIC BUSINESS PRINCIPLES:
   A. COMPETENCE IN MAJOR FIELD AND GROUNDING IN OTHER MAJOR CORE AREAS: There is broad coverage of general business topics (described in more detail below), as well as some discussion of marketing issues in ethics, coverage of objectivity and independence in accounting, and employer/employee issues in management.
   B. AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS OF BUSINESS DECISIONS: Discuss and analyze cases involving international e-commerce issues and ethical issues regarding other cultures and outsourcing.
   C. UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF STRATEGIC IMPACT OF BUSINESS DECISIONS: Analyze the consequences of a well-organized, properly prepared ethics policy and the failure to prepare a policy. Understand the importance of a stakeholder analysis on business decisions which include an ethics component.

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UT Tyler Honor Code: Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Academic Dishonesty Statement
The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment of the award of a degree, and/or the submission, as one’s own work of material that is not one’s own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

University regulations require the instructor to report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. In the event disciplinary measures are imposed on the student, it becomes part of the student's official school records. Also, please note that the handbook obligates you to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor.

If a team project is found to include plagiarism, the project will receive a zero.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct
http://www.utttyler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf

Writing Resources for Students:
www.utttyler.edu/writingcenter/
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl

Emergency Exits and Evacuation: Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do Not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule:
Listed below are the reading assignments and course schedule for this semester. You are responsible for the reading assignments on the dates listed even if the class discussion has not kept pace. Additional reading assignments may be posted on Canvas by the Instructor.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>Introduction &amp; Syllabus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Chp 1 – The Importance of Business Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 &amp; 25</td>
<td>“The Smartest Guys in the Room” movie – &amp; discussion (Group Assignments made)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Chp 2 – Stakeholder Relationships, Social Resp. &amp; Corp. Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<td>Simulation exercise (in class)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Chp 3 – Emerging Business Ethics Issues</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Chp. 4 - Institutionalization of Business Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Exam 1 (Chps 1-4, movie)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Chp 5 – Ethical Decision Making</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Chp 6 - Individual Factors: Moral Philosophies &amp; Values</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>“Jack Abramoff” videos and discussion (viewed in class)</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Chp 7 – Organizational Factors</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>Exam 2 (Chps 5-7, GVV &amp; Abramoff)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Chp 8 – Developing an Effective Ethics Program</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Giving Voice to Values Videos and Questions</td>
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<td>Tale of Two Stories Paper due March 22nd</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Chp. 10- Globalization of Ethical Decision Making</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Debate Discussion</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Guest Speaker</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Debate Prep Work</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Group 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Group 2</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Chp. 11 – Ethical Leadership</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Group 3</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Group 5</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Chp. 12 – Sustainability: Ethical Social Responsibility Dimensions</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Peer Evaluations/ Review</td>
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TBD       Final Exam (Chp. 8, 10-12 & presentations)