**American University of Beirut**

**Suliman S. Olayan School of Business**

**BUSS 215- Business Ethics**

**Course Syllabus – Fall 2015**

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| **Course No.** | Buss 215 |
| **Course Name** | Business Ethics |
| **Credit Hours** | 3 |
| **Sect. & Time** |  |
| **Instructor** |  |
| **Office** |  |
| **E-mail** |  |
| **Office Hours** |  |
| **Prerequisites** | MNGT 215 |
| **Required Materials:** | *The course will use a* McGraw*-Hill e-book.* Your instructor will give you some additional information regarding access and use.  Eichhoefer, G.W. 1995. Enduring Issues in Philosophy. Greenhaven Press.   * Morality is governed by willing to do Right. **From Immanuel Kant**, Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of morals, 6th edition, translated by T.K. Abbott. London: Longmans, Green & CO. 1907. (p. 220-228) * Morality is governed by Consequences of Behavior. **From John Stuart Mill**. Utilitarianism. London: Parker Son, and Dourne, 1863. (p. 209-217) * Moral Absolutes Must be Learned from Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics |
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| **Course Description:** | This is an introductory course that provides students with an overview of business ethics at the individual, organizational, and societal level. Issues such as corruption, sexual harassment, fair trade, fraud, whistle-blowing, corporate social responsibility, ethical norms, ethical values, environmental responsibility and many more will be examined both in the international as well as local Lebanese context. Ultimately, the course is designed to not only introduce students to a wide array of current ethical issues in business but to also foster skills related to critically analyzing the ethical and social dimensions of business-related problems in order to build more ethically-informed rationales for decision making. The course is also designed to systematically improve the writing skills of the student. |
| **Relationship to Other Coursework:** | The perspective upon which this course is built holds that business is an important participant in modern society. As such, students must grasp the role and (un)ethical impact that business has (or has had) in shaping our modern global society. This course will help students identify ethical problems (current and past) and understand their immediate and long-term implications on different businesses, industries, stakeholders, societies and humanity at large.  Such an examination of business ethics is relevant to a number of variant disciplines and courses including: finance, management, marketing, accounting, psychology, sociology, economics, agriculture, public health, ethics, and many more. |

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| **BBA-Program Learning Goals Emphasized** | This course is a central course – in other words, it is a course that deals with a topic relevant to the entire subject matters covered by the OSB BBA curriculum. It is meant to establish the student’s undergraduate business program outlook. To this end most of the BBA program learning goals are addressed throughout the course as follows:   * **B-LG1: *Professional Business Competence*** – Through this course, students will be able to identify, evaluate and apply strategies that will allow a firm to compete successfully within its environment, within the boundaries defined and set by the various stakeholders. In applying these strategies graduates will use concepts, principles and theories from professional knowledge and competence as presented in business examples of relevant situations. Performance will be assessed by the instructor in the course through simulated assessments. * **B-LG3: *Ethics –*** In this course, students will understand and explain ethical principles/rules/codes of conduct and situational variables bearing upon business/managerial ethical dilemmas as defined by the stakeholders. * **B-LG6**: ***Global Business Environment -*** In this course, the student will identify and define the ethical imperatives affecting key globalization factors and demonstrate their relevance on business competitiveness. |
| **Specific Learning Objectives (SLO) for the Course:** | The Specific Learning Objectives (SLOs) for this course that map to the BBA program learning goals mentioned above are as follows:  **B-LG1: *Professional Business Competence***   1. **To provide students with a framework for ethical decision making in business. *(Assessed through AoL rubric)***    * Students will be able to list the key components of a framework for ethical decision making.    * Students will be able to use this framework to explain the moral and social context for business decision making.    * Students will be able to use this framework to critically analyze and to **make informed and logical** ethical choices and arguments in simulated business-related scenarios.   **B-LG3: *Ethics***   1. **To provide students with a general knowledge and comprehension of important Western Moral Philosophies and their link to Modern Business Ethics**    * Students will be able to identify and explain *primary philosophical texts* associated with Virtue Ethics, Utilitarianism, and Relativism.    * Students will be able to apply these moral philosophies to illustrate (un)ethical behavior in simulated business-related scenarios. 2. **To provide students with a general knowledge and comprehension of important *Contemporary Works of Business Ethics* and their theoretical and practical implications.**    * Studentswill be able to identify and explain some of the major contemporary business ethics works (e.g., articles, principles, film) that have sparked major debates in the field.    * Students will formulate personal reflections and critical arguments in support of their point of view about these works.   **B-LG6**: ***Global Business Environment***   1. **To provide students with a general knowledge and comprehension of Business Ethics and Business Ethics Applications**  * Students will be able to identify and define contemporary business ethics concepts/issues. * Students will gain insight into the extent of ethical misconduct in the workplace and the pressures for unethical behavior. * Students will examine major events that have influenced the development of the modern business ethics and global economic landscape. * Students will be able to illustrate applications of, and challenges to the application of, Western-centered ethical concepts, definitions, and practices within the local business environment. |
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| **General Education Learning Objectives** | This course addresses the Humanities General Education requirements through the following specific learning objectives:   * Analyze primary works of philosophy, literature, religion, history, art, music, or film, using methodologies that are grounded in the humanities. * Analyze past or present trends and events in the development of world cultures. * **Demonstrate critical thinking abilities by making informed and logical arguments.** * **Value different academic and professional modes of ethical behavior.** |
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| **Instructional Methodology** | Lecture, class discussion, research projects, multiple writing assignments, instructional videos |

Performance Evaluation and Grading

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| Midterm | 30% |
| Term Project | 30% |
| Writing Component  4 formal and individual assignments and various informal assignments | 30% |
| Participation in class | 10% |
| **Total** | 100% |

**Tentative Schedule**

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| **No.** | **Week of** | **Topics/chapters** | **Additional Info** |
| 1 | Sept 2 | Introduction/ Ethics and Business |  |
| 2 | Sept 7 | Chapter 1 & Decision making framework |  |
| 3 | Sept 14 | Decision making framework & practical applications |  |
| 4 | Sept 21 | Philosophical Readings | Sept 23 – 25 Al Adha Holiday, no classes |
| 5 | Sept. 28 | Integration of Philosophical Readings with Ethical Decision Making Framework |  |
| 6 | Oct 5 | Corporate Culture and Leadership |  |
| 7 | Oct 12 | Corporate Culture and Leadership | Oct. 15 Hijra – no classes |
| 8 | Oct 19 | Corporate Governance |  |
| 9 | Oct. 26 | Corporate Governance | **Possibly Midterm exam Oct 30** |
| 10 | Nov. 9 | HR & Ethics (Employer Responsibilities and Employee Rights) |  |
| 11 | Nov 16 | HR & Ethics  (Technology and Privacy) | ) |
| 12 | Nov. 23 | Ethics in Marketing |  |
| 13 | Nov 30/ Dec 1 | Corporate Social Responsibility & Business and the Environment |  |
| 14 | Dec 7 | Corporate Social Responsibility & Business and the Environment | Dec 8 – 10 Reading period for Fall semester |

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| **Academic Honesty:** | Students are expected to complete all work with the highest standard of integrity in line with AUB’s Student Code of Conduct and OSB’s Honor Code. **Plagiarism, forgery, cheating or any form of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. The instructor WILL bring any form of academic misconduct to the attention of the relevant OSB committee for disciplinary action.** Any of the above may cause a student’s final course grade to be lowered significantly or the student may receive a failing grade, depending on the severity of the offence. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. |
| **Other Course Policies:** | * Attendance: Students missing more than 3 classes will be penalized. Students missing more than 6 classes may be dropped without notice. If your absences accumulate after the official drop deadline, you risk failing the course. **Students are responsible for any and all material/assignments missed during absences.** * Turn-it-In: Students **must submit all written projects and assignments to *turnitin.com*** on the same day that they submit their work to their instructors. Turnitin.com is simply an aid to ensure that a student’s work is their own. Further details concerning turnitin.com will be provided in class * Deadlines and Due Dates: These will be strictly enforced. Written assignments are due at the **beginning** of class on the due date. Late submissions will **automatically lose one letter grade per day** (24 hours). Missing work will be assigned a grade of zero. * Group work: Individuals must contribute their fair share to any group effort resulting in a deliverable to the instructor. In addition, everyone in the group will be held accountable for the quality, originality and proper sourcing of the entire group product. * **CELL PHONES** Students will turn their cell phones off or put them on vibrate mode while in class. They will not answer their phones in class; they will not send or read SMS in class. Students whose phones disrupt the course and do not stop when requested by the instructor will be disciplined as per the Student Code of Conduct. * **COMPUTER USE** In the classroom, faculty allows students to use computers only for class-related activities. These include activities such as taking notes on the lecture underway, following the lecture on Web-based PowerPoint slides that the instructor has posted, and finding Web sites to which the instructor directs students at the time of the lecture. Students who use their computers for other activities or who abuse the equipment in any way, at a minimum, will be asked to leave the class and will lose participation points for the day, and, at a maximum, will be treated as disrupting the course. " |