Scientific and Professional Ethics [Mgt., Biol., Chem. 326]

Tuesday and Thursday (3:00-4:15): Spring 2014

Instructor: Dennis L. Slivinski, Ph.D., J.D.

Course Catalog Description:

Course issue development includes (1) discussion of ethical issues and societal challenges derived from scientific research and professional activities, (2) an examination of the sources, fundamental principles, applications of ethical behavior and the relationship between personal ethics and social responsibility of organizations; and the stakeholder management concept and (3) applies ethical principles to different types of organizations: business, non-profits, government, health care, science/technology, and other professional groups.

Program Learning Goals: These are the skills we try to help you build in all MVS courses:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Collaboration
5. Conduct (Ethics)
6. Competency in Discipline

Course Learning Outcomes and Link between Course Leaning Outcomes and Program Learning Goals:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Describe the major elements of ethical theory. (1,2,3)
2. Analyze and present results of complex ethics cases. (1,2,3,5)
3. Prepare and give effective oral presentations about ethical issues. (2,4,5)
4. Conduct research and write a 1000 word paper on aspects of ethics. (1,3,5,6)
Required Text:

Steven Scalet, Markets, Ethics, and Business Ethics with On Line My Search Lab (MSL), ISBN 9780205887750

Schedule of Readings and Class Analysis:

Please read the assigned pages before the class date noted. All case studies (CS) are found in MSL.

1/21: Discussion of syllabus, orientation

1/23: p. 1-10

1/28: 11-21

1/30: 21-32

2/4: 33-42

2/6: 43-57, CS, Property Law and Animals

2/11: 58-68

2/13: 69-82, CS, Madoff, MSL

2/18: 82-95, CS, BP oil spill and Patagonia

2/20: 96-105

2/25: 105-114, CS Potential Extinction

2/27: 115-125

3/4: First Paper due in class, p. 125-135, CS Clean Water Act

3/6: MC test on Introduction, Chapters 1-7 Inclusive, and on line readings.
3/11: Class review of graded papers.

3/13: 136-144

3/18: 145-155

3/20: Optional Rewrite of First paper with graded paper attached due in Class, CS, Blowing the Whistle and Sarbanes Oxley

March 24-29 Spring Break

4/1: 156-166, CS, Smoking Laws

4/3: 166-178, CS, Employee Privacy Rights


4/10: 190-202

4/15: 202-212

4/17: 212-223, CS, CEO pay

4/22: 224-236


4/29: 248-255, CS Life Choices

5/1 Open for review and questions regarding exams and essay structure

5/6: MC TEST on Chapters 8-14 inclusive and on line readings.

5/8: Study session on papers due for final

Final Exam Date: Final Paper due
**Study method:**

Each student should develop an individual analysis notebook stating the ethical issues, arguments, and resolutions presented in the reading materials. Read and study the material and summarize the basic arguments presented, the support provided and the conclusions derived. Pay attention to the names of the various thinkers/authors and distinguish between and among their viewpoints. The most efficient way to develop a consistent, complete and clear analysis in ethics or any other area of study is to write and revise arguments and statements until they express precisely what is intended. The notebooks will not be submitted to the instructor or graded but they are useful to prepare for both class discussions and examinations.

**Grading:**

The final letter grade will be based on the final weighted percentage of the two papers and two Multiple Choice Tests as follows:

MC test One: 20%, MC test two: 30%, First Paper: 20%, Final Paper 30%.

Students who elect to rewrite the First Paper will be assigned the higher grade.

Makeup tests will not be provided. Papers must be hand delivered by the student on the dates required. No electronic delivery. The student is responsible for organizing schedules to avoid conflicts with test dates. **A missed test and late papers will be assigned a grade zero.**

An A grade will represent 87+%, a B 77-86%, a C 67-76%, a C- 62-66, a D 57-61% , and F <57%, WU(five or more absences beginning with Thursday January 23). Note that absence from class is not encouraged. If you have other commitments which likely will require more a few absences you are advised to take this course at a more convenient time.
Note that a C is an average grade and is the one earned by the majority of students who have taken this section of this course in the past. However, the instructor does not have any set grade quota. To prevent grade inflation the targeted long term GPA average for the Smith School is 2.5 for undergraduate courses.

The in class multiple choice questions require a pink scantron Form F-1712-PAR-L available at the bookstore. They evaluate comprehension of the ethical concepts, factual situations, arguments and analysis presented in the textbook and online readings. The text and on line readings must be read, studied and outlined thoroughly in order to achieve success on the tests designed to assess comprehension of the assigned readings in the Chapters of the Scalet text and any supplemental readings. Students will be expected to demonstrate understanding of the substantive content, analysis, arguments and distinctions presented in the readings by choosing the correct answer from several choices. Be attentive to the names of the thinkers studied, their specific views and arguments and how they differ from others.

The questions for the essay tests along with instructions will be posted on Blackboard in advance to allow for study and reflection. These tests are to be completed outside of class and are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified on the test schedule. No electronic delivery. Each test is structured to assess critical thinking and analysis of value/ethical issues. No late papers will be accepted or graded.

Since the written tests are take home they will be graded on the assumption that students have taken care and time to present their best work. Each student is expected to invest quality time thinking about the issues before submitting the final work product. It is very important to rewrite your answers several times to produce clear, complete and thoughtful presentations free of rambling, irrelevant passages, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. Grading is rigorous based on achievement of the posted standards relative to the peer group.
Lectures are not designed to present what is on the test. Therefore, students should not expect that they will be fully prepared for the tests merely by reviewing class notes. The lectures will focus on concepts from the readings to assist students with critical thinking and analysis procedures that students may apply to portions of the assigned readings not specifically addressed in class and other ethical or value issues.

The most efficient way to prepare for the multiple choice tests is to read the assigned material **before** the class scheduled for the specific material, outline the fundamental points and prepare thoughtful questions concerning the issues. This method will result in a detailed notebook that will serve as a useful test preparation manual. The instructor does not prepare lecture notes for publication. The primary teaching method used is a blend of introducing concepts and educating students by a series of questions to assist the students' articulation of the issues presented.

The instructor may add up to three points to the total test grade for class participation. Class participation is demonstrated by making thoughtful contributions to the development of the value theory analysis during the course of the semester. For example, students may submit written questions by e-mail to the instructor before the scheduled class discussion. Students will also be asked questions in class and are encouraged to participate in class discussions. Students who have not studied the assigned material in advance of class so that they are prepared to engage in substantive class discussions will not receive class participation points.

**Class Attendance:** University Policy provides that students are expected to attend class regularly. The ability to understand and articulate the ethical reasoning presented in the written materials is enhanced by class discussions conducted by well prepared students. **In the interest of avoiding distractions Students are requested not to use computers, cell phone or texting devices during class and to be in class on time.**

Any student who is absent for five or more classes starting with class on January 23 will be assigned a WU(Withdrawal Unauthorized) grade.
**Academic Ethics:** This course is governed by the University policy on Academic Dishonesty. In particular, each student should realize that the assignments and exams should be each student’s own work product in the sense that the assignments are not prepared by another or essentially copied from the work of another. However, students are encouraged to build on the ideas presented in the readings and to discuss the issues with fellow students as they develop their own work product.

**Blackboard:** Blackboard will be used for course announcements, grade posting, and material supplemental to the text such as E-Reserves.

**Add/Drop:** Students should read the Add-Drop rules in the University publications. A student may drop a course after the third week only for serious and compelling reasons. The instructor will drop any student who is absent without written notice during the add/drop period.

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday/Thursday 1:20-2:55p.m., Sage 2152 and by appointment.

Email: dennis.slivinski@csuci.edu. It is requested that students provide advance notice of an office appointment

**Students with special needs:**

Students with physical or learning disabilities are encouraged to contact the Student Services office (437-8510) for personal assistance.