

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

## **MGT 326 – 04 BUSINESS ETHICS**

### **FALL 2023**

**Instructor:** Nik Lewis, MBA

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**Telephone:** 805-409-5876 (mobile)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 5:00-6:00pm

**Office Location:** MVS Hall 2122

**Zoom Room:** <https://csuci.zoom.us/j/7168583636>

**Course Meetings:** Wednesday 6:00-8:50pm

**Course Location:** Smith Decision Center 1908

#### **Course Description**

Examines business organizations through the lens of ethical theory. Applies general ethical principles to explore the moral obligations that businesses have to their customers, and to society at large. It also looks at ethical dimensions of the employer-employee relationship.

#### **Required Texts**

1. Ethics for the Real World by Ronald A. Howard & Clinton D. Korver Harvard Business Review Press. (at most \$20)
2. “Additional Stuff You Need Covered” (A.S.Y.N.C.) Readings on Canvas. (Free)

#### **Program Learning Goals (PLGs) for MVS School of Business & Economics Program**

The MVS School has six stated Program Learning Goals:

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

#### **Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)**

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the major elements of ethical theory (PLG-5);
- Analyze and present results of complex ethics cases (PLG-5 and PLG-1);
- Prepare and give effective oral presentations about ethical issues (PLG-5, PLG-2, PLG-4)
- Perform research and write a 1,000 word paper on an aspect of ethics (PLG-5, PLG-3 and PLG-6).

## **Course Approach**

Classes will consist of classroom lectures/discussions based on the textbooks and current, relevant events. Students are required to prepare for, and participate in, the classroom discussions. The course will additionally involve the analysis of predefined case studies, a personal ethics reflection paper, and a group project where the students will analyze and present the ethical element(s) of a movie as a team.

## **Course Policies**

### ***Attendance***

Your attendance of each class meeting is essential to your success in the course. If it becomes necessary for you to be absent, please send the instructor an email in advance to ensure you do not fall behind. Submitting assignments early will be an option where it does not impact the intent of the assignment. Participation includes communication with professor and contribution to discussion board assignments.

### ***Disability Statement***

If you are a student with a disability requesting reasonable accommodations in this course, please visit Disability Accommodations and Support Services (DASS) located on the second floor of Arroyo Hall, or call 805-437-3331. All requests for reasonable accommodations require registration with DASS in advance of needed services. You can [apply for DASS services here](#). Faculty, students and DASS will work together regarding classroom accommodations. You are encouraged to discuss approved accommodations with your faculty.

### ***Academic Integrity***

As an institution of higher learning, CSUCI values academic integrity and will not tolerate acts of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism, and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. If a student is found responsible for committing an act of academic dishonesty in this course, an appropriate academic penalty will be assigned, and the incident will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. For additional information, please refer to CSUCI's [Policy on Academic Dishonesty](#).

## **Evaluation Method**

The final grade for this course will be based on a total of 100 percent, as follows:

Participation	10%
Ethical Case Study Analyses (2 @ 15%)	30%
Personal Ethics Paper	25%
Interpersonal Ethics Paper & Presentation (Film Project)	15%
Final Exam	20%

## Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

## Case Study Analyses (30%)

***Case Study #1 CEO of Starbucks – Ethical Leadership***

***Case Study #2 Facebook Algorithms – Too Far? Targeting Broken Hearts***

The names of the two case studies that we will use are provided above. The case studies themselves will be posted on canvas. What I expect is a 4-6 page thoughtful analysis of, and response to, the ethics involved in each case study.

### Guidelines:

- Page 1: One paragraph summarizing the ethical situation involved in the case study, and another paragraph detailing the ethical decisions that were made in the case study.
- Pages 2-3: should consist of a personal, thoughtful response to the ethical decisions involved in the case study. What is your opinion of how the situation was taken care of? Was it properly handled? If appropriate, please provide a personal example of how you have handled, or how you would handle, a similar situation in your own work/personal life.
- Remainder of Paper (**most important part**) should relate the ethical decisions in the case studies to what we have covered in the textbook(s) so far in the course. Which principles have we learned about so far? How were they, or how were they not, applied in the case study?
- Finally, please include a brief conclusion.

\*4-6 pages double-spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman font.

## Personal Ethics Paper (25%)

The Personal Ethics Reflection Assignment is an opportunity for the student to reflect on an ethical situation they have experienced in their personal or work life. What I expect is a 4-6 page thoughtful reflection on, and analysis of, an ethical situation that you have faced in your personal or work life.

### Guidelines:

- Page 1: A summary of the ethical situation.
- Pages 2-3: Thorough analysis of the ethical elements of the situation that took place. What decision was ethical or unethical in your opinion? Why do you see it as ethical or unethical? Which parts of the situation could have been handled differently? Please include both underlying as well as obvious reasons why you may have felt something was ethical or unethical based on the situation you were presented with.
- Remainder of Paper (**most important part**): Apply ethical concepts that we have covered in the course so far to the ethical situation. For example: When Susie told our boss about Bob's habitual tardiness, she was exhibiting duty-based ethical behavior as she was reporting to the boss out of her sense of "duty." If no ethics were applied in the situation, which concepts that we have studied so far would have helped had they been applied to the situation?
- Finally, please include a brief conclusion.

\*4-6 pages double-spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman font.

## Film Project (15%)

Students will assemble into teams of four and select a film which contains elements that are ethical in nature. With your partners, prepare a thoughtful analysis of a scene in the film where a character faces a defining moment.

### Paper:

What I expect is a 3-4 page double-spaced description and analysis of the ethical situation in the film.

### Guidelines:

- Page 1: Detail a description of the situation and its ethical nature.
- Page 2: The students' analysis of the ethics involved in the situation. What was done poorly? Why was this a poor ethical decision? What was done ethically and why?
- Remainder of Paper (**most important part**): Tie the ethical situation in the film to the concepts we have learned about in this course.
- Finally, please provide a brief conclusion.

### Presentation:

- Prepare to lead the class in a discussion of this character-defining moment from the film. This discussion should be modeled off of the active lectures that we have in class.

**Final Exam (20%)**

The Final Exam will be a combination of short answer and multiple choice questions. It will primarily consist of short answer questions which will require original thought in order to be successful. More information will be provided in class.

**Course Schedule on Next Page**

**Course Schedule Key****Highlighted Yellow = Zoom Session****Highlighted Blue = Asynchronous (No meeting)****Purple = Graded Assignment Due**

F2F Dates:

8/23-9/27, 10/25-11/22

**Zoom Dates:****10/18, 11/29****Asynchronous Dates:****10/4&10/11****Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Class Activity</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
8/23/23	Course Overview *Syllabus *Emotional intelligence primer *The Art of Skillful Decision Making	Read Introduction: Skillful Decision Making
8/30/23	Chapter 1 Discussion *What is “Almost” Ethical?	Read Chapter 1: Almost Ethical A.S.Y.N.C. Reading 1
9/6/23	Chapter 2 Discussion *Drawing Moral Distinctions Chapter 3 Discussion *Consulting Religious, Secular, & Work Touchstones	Read Chapter 2: Draw Distinctions A.S.Y.N.C. Reading 2 Read Chapter 3: Consult the Touchstones A.S.Y.N.C. Reading 3
9/13/23	<b>Case Study #1 Discussion</b> <b>CEO of Starbucks – Ethical Leadership</b> <b>*Public Discrimination</b> <b>*Leading by Example</b>	<b>Case Study #1 Analysis due 5:59pm 9/13/23.</b>
9/20/23	Chapter 4 Discussion *Drafting a Personal Ethical Code	Read Chapter 4: Draft Your Code A.S.Y.N.C. Reading 4
9/27/23	<b>Personal Ethics Discussion</b>  ***Choose Teams for Film Project***	<b>Personal Ethics Paper due 5:59pm 9/27/23.</b>

10/4/23	Article Literature Review	1. Read Article 2. <b>Contribute to Discussion Board #1 on Canvas by 11:59pm 10/4/23.</b>
10/11/23	Article Literature Review	1. Read Article 2. <b>Contribute to Discussion Board #2 on Canvas by 11:59pm 10/11/23.</b>
10/18/23	Article Discussion Ethical Arguments Ethical, legal, prudential	Prepare for Zoom discussion of discussion board topics
10/25/23	<b>Case Study #2 Discussion</b> <b>Facebook Algorithms – Targeting Broken Hearts</b> <b>*Unethical Behavior on Social Media</b> <b>*Filtered Photos</b> <b>*Multi-level Marketing</b>	<b>Case Study #2 Analysis due 5:59pm 10/25/23.</b>
11/1/23	Chapter 5 Discussion *Choosing Ethical Action	Read Chapter 5: Choose Action A.S.Y.N.C. Reading 5
11/8/23	Chapter 6 Discussion *Transforming Personal Life With Ethics	Read Chapter 6: Transform Life
11/15/23	<b>Movie Panel</b>	<b>Film Analysis Project due 5:59pm 11/15/23.</b>
11/22/23	Chapter 7 Discussion *Transforming Work Life with Ethics	Read Chapter 7: Transform Work
11/29/23	Chapters 1-7 Review Discussion *Lessons Learned *Practical Application of Ethics	Review Chapters 1-7
12/6/23	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Complete Final Exam Due 11:59pm 12/6/23</b>

*\*This syllabus is a living document and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. If any changes are made, you will be notified promptly.*