
UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

PHIL 1404-01 Ethics and Social Responsibility - AY2024-T2

Written assignment unit 3

Instructor: Cynthia Donnelly

INTRODUCTION:

In the past few years, untucked shirts have gained wider acceptance, and the black t-shirt and jeans popular in Silicon Valley now constitute stylish attire in certain business settings (Byars & Stanberry, 2019). However, I believe tucking in one's shirt remains very important. Tucking in makes an individual look neat, tidy, sharp, and professional, whether in an academic or office environment.

1. How clothing choices affect workplace relationships

Clothing choices significantly influence the relationships employees form at work. Attire sends signals about professionalism, authority, approachability, and group affiliation. Conforming to organizational norms with appropriate business attire facilitates relationship building between colleagues by indicating shared values like respect and duty. Violating implicit dress codes can undermine trust and cooperation. However, as cultural standards evolve, strict formalwear gives way to smart casual in many workplaces. The balance aims to encourage camaraderie without sacrificing productivity.

2. Opinion on employer dress codes and behavior standards

Employers have reasonable grounds to institute dress codes aligning with their culture and industry. Rationale includes projecting professionalism, safety considerations, hygiene factors, etc. However, restrictive policies on personal expression risk harming morale and diversity. Employers should discuss appropriate attire with employees instead of decreeing overzealous rules. For instance, tattoos or unconventional hair dyes need not violate conduct given situational acceptance. Still, organizations reserve judgment restricting excessively casual or ostentatious clothing. The idea remains facilitating interpersonal collaboration, not enabling personal whims. Legal and ethical standards apply equally for other behavioral guidelines.

3. Importance of dress standards from an ethical perspective

Dress codes promote values like discipline, dignity, and social harmony that benefit stakeholders and society. However, imposed notions of decorum upheld through punitive measures violate individual rights and reinforce questionable power structures. Moreover, strictly regulated uniforms historically associated with oppression and conformity. Consequently, ethical dilemmas exist regarding personal choice versus collective duty. Current inclusive ethics advocate reasonable attire guidelines through democratic consultation focused on people over rules. Shared mores determine appropriate workwear instead of top-down control measures. This empowers employees while allowing reasonable oversight as per industry-relevant factors. Ultimately, voluntary adherence to elected standards aligned with human dignity and mutual respect defines the modern ethical approach.

4. Influence of clothing on international business ethics

Multinational companies must remain sensitive to local cultural perceptions regarding attire in global operations spanning various jurisdictions. Universal dress codes falter with significant variations in norms, climatic demands, and sourcing feasibility across international locations. Enforcing uncomfortable uniforms or material expectations like woollens among subsidiaries operating in tropical conditions appears exploitative and constitutes substantive ethical issues. However, adapting to community standards for modest public attire and safe operational wear remains reasonable despite the costs of localization. Beyond functional aspects, displaying cultural sensitivity through inclusive policies and traditional wear options helps demonstrate community integration and long-term commitment. Allowing smart casual in branches with younger demographics also boosts

camaraderie. Therefore, clothing appropriately factors among ethical obligations of international businesses.

CONCLUSION:

Regardless of one's personal preferences for tucked or untucked shirts, or formally professional versus more casual attire, how an individual dresses and presents themselves makes a strong statement about who they are. Clothing choices act as powerful, non-verbal signals that convey messages about a person and their values to others in social or workplace settings. Even if one does not believe dress should significantly influence assessments of character or competence, outward appearance and adherence to implicit dressing norms impact the perceptions, assumptions, and judgments others formulate. As such, the decision to follow or flout dominant cultural standards of presentation carries meaning and interpersonal consequences beyond just aesthetic considerations or comfort. In essence, attire constitutes an influential factor in interpersonal communication and relationship development (St Louis, 2022).

.....

References:

Byars, S. M., & Stanberry, K. (2019). Business ethics. OpenStax College and Rice University. Retrieved from: <https://openstax.org/details/books/business-ethics>

Jimenez, G. C., & Pulos, E. (2016). Good Corporation, Bad Corporation: Corporate Social Responsibility in the Global Economy. Open SUNY Textbooks. Retrieved from: <https://milnepublishing.geneseo.edu/good-corporation-bad-corporation/>.

St Louis, M. (2022, December 21). Research shows that the clothes you wear actually change the way you perform. Inc.com. <https://www.inc.com/molly-reynolds/research-shows-that-the-clothes-you-wear-actually-change-the-way-you-perform.html>

Word count: 608