



## UNSW Course Outline

# ZBUS8205 Business Ethics - 2024

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## General Course Information

Course Code : ZBUS8205

Year : 2024

Term : Semester 2

Teaching Period : Z2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Canberra

Academic Unit : UC School of Business

Delivery Mode : Online

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : UNSW Canberra at ADFA

Campus : UNSW Canberra

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

Business enterprises in the modern global economy are routinely faced with challenging ethical issues. Do corporations have “social responsibilities” beyond making profit for their shareholders? Is it morally acceptable to use bribery in cultures where it is normal and widely practised? Is the use of sweatshop labour exploitative? Is networking for career advantage a

form of “cheating”? What counts as “discrimination” in the workplace? Must the most qualified candidate always be appointed? Is advertising to children and other vulnerable groups appropriate? What’s so bad about “insider trading”? This course will equip students with the analytical tools to anticipate, critically assess, and appropriately respond to the ethical challenges that arise in business and professional life, both in the private and the public sector.

## Course Aims

The aim of this course is to strengthen your ability to anticipate, critically analyse and appropriately respond to some of the ethical challenges that confront managers and other private and public sector professionals in a global economy.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the concepts and precepts of various approaches to ethical decision-making
CLO2 : Apply abstract ethical theories and principles to real-world situations
CLO3 : Construct cogent, clearly articulated arguments where the premises rationally support the conclusion
CLO4 : Propose solutions to the moral challenges confronting both private and public sector professionals

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the concepts and precepts of various approaches to ethical decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online Short Answer Test</li><li>• Major Essay</li><li>• Final Online Exam (Take Home Test)</li></ul>
CLO2 : Apply abstract ethical theories and principles to real-world situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online Short Answer Test</li><li>• Major Essay</li><li>• Final Online Exam (Take Home Test)</li></ul>
CLO3 : Construct cogent, clearly articulated arguments where the premises rationally support the conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online Short Answer Test</li><li>• Major Essay</li><li>• Final Online Exam (Take Home Test)</li></ul>
CLO4 : Propose solutions to the moral challenges confronting both private and public sector professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major Essay</li><li>• Final Online Exam (Take Home Test)</li></ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Blackboard Collaborate

# Learning and Teaching in this course

Moodle is the Learning Management System used at UNSW Canberra.

All courses have a Moodle site which will become available to students at least one week before the start of semester. Please find all help and documentation (including Blackboard Collaborate) at the [Moodle Support](#) page.

UNSW Moodle supports the following web browsers:

- Google Chrome 50+
- Safari 10+
- Internet Explorer is not recommended
- Addons and Toolbars can affect any browser's performance.

*Operating systems recommended are:*

Windows 7, 10, Mac OSX Sierra, iPad IOS10

For further details about system requirements click [here](#).

Log in to Moodle [here](#).

## Teaching strategies and rationale

Each Monday, a Lecture Substitute will be posted up on the course Moodle page, introducing students to the topic and drawing out its most salient issues. Students will then be directed to the prescribed readings (links will be made available), and a new forum will be opened each week for discussion. There will also be online tutorial discussions approximately once per fortnight. This course utilises Class Collaborate, a virtual classroom system accessible via Moodle. Students are encouraged to attend the sessions but it is not a requirement. The sessions will be recorded and made available on Moodle for later review.

## Workload

Students are expected to undertake an average of 10 hours of study per week for a 6 UOC course. This includes engagement with course readings and other activities, assessment preparation and research, as well as contact time with the lecturer and fellow students.

# Other Professional Outcomes

## Developing Program Attributes

Students will be encouraged to develop the following School of Business program attributes by

undertaking the course activities and mastering the knowledge content:

**1: Business knowledge**

Students will learn to anticipate, appraise, and devise responses to the ethical challenges that arise in the course of doing business.

**2: Problem solving**

Students will learn to utilise philosophical reasoning and argumentation in order to solve complex moral dilemmas.

**3: Business communication**

Students will learn to communicate complex arguments clearly and in a manner that is intelligible to a range of stakeholders.

**4: Teamwork**

N/A

**5: Responsible business practice**

Students will learn to appreciate, and resolve, the conflicts that often arise between commercial imperatives and the demands of corporate social responsibility.

**6: Global and cultural competence**

N/A

**7: Leadership development**

This course aims to cultivate conscientious leaders with strong analytical and critical reasoning skills.

**Developing Graduate Capabilities**

Successful completion of this course contributes to the acquisition of UNSW graduate capabilities. UNSW aspires to develop globally focused graduates who are **rigorous scholars**, capable of **leadership** and **professional practice** in an **international** community.

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Online Short Answer Test Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: 04/08/2024 09:00 AM Due Date: 12/08/2024 09:00 AM Post Date: 27/08/2024 05:00 PM
Major Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (7 days)	40%	Start Date: 31/07/2024 12:00 PM Due Date: 12/09/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 27/09/2024 05:00 PM
Final Online Exam (Take Home Test) Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: 01/11/2024 09:00 AM Due Date: 08/11/2024 05:00 PM Post Date: 28/11/2024 03:00 PM

## Assessment Details

### Online Short Answer Test

#### Assessment Overview

Short answer test on ethical theory.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the concepts and precepts of various approaches to ethical decision-making
- CLO2 : Apply abstract ethical theories and principles to real-world situations
- CLO3 : Construct cogent, clearly articulated arguments where the premises rationally support the conclusion

#### Detailed Assessment Description

A short-answer test to assess your knowledge of the course material, your critical reasoning, and your ability to apply the concepts and precepts of ethics in your thinking about specific issues.

Please see the course Moodle site for a detailed description of this assessment. Information will be made available in Week 1.

#### **Permitted use of AI tools: SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE**

For this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to writing or completing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software (this is limited to spelling and grammar checking and reference citation generation) in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate, paraphrase or translate passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text, you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of the submission, you may be referred to the UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

**Please refer to the General Assessment Information section below for information on the requirement to include a cover sheet/declaration with all assessments, disclosing whether AI tools were used.**

**Assessment Length**

1000 words

**Assignment submission Turnitin type**

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

**Major Essay**

**Assessment Overview**

Major research essay addressing a specific issue in business and professional ethics.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the concepts and precepts of various approaches to ethical decision-making
- CLO2 : Apply abstract ethical theories and principles to real-world situations
- CLO3 : Construct cogent, clearly articulated arguments where the premises rationally support the conclusion
- CLO4 : Propose solutions to the moral challenges confronting both private and public sector professionals

**Detailed Assessment Description**

Major research essay addressing a specific issue in business and professional ethics. Please see the course Moodle site for a detailed description of this assessment. Information will be made available in Week 4.

**Permitted use of AI tools: SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE**

For this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to writing or completing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software (this is limited to spelling and grammar checking and reference citation generation) in the creation of your submission. You must not use

any functions that generate, paraphrase or translate passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text, you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of the submission, you may be referred to the UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

**Please refer to the General Assessment Information section below for information on the requirement to include a cover sheet/declaration with all assessments, disclosing whether AI tools were used.**

**Assessment Length**

2000 words

**Assignment submission Turnitin type**

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

**Final Online Exam (Take Home Test)**

**Assessment Overview**

Reflective critical analysis of two topics covered in the course.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the concepts and precepts of various approaches to ethical decision-making
- CLO2 : Apply abstract ethical theories and principles to real-world situations
- CLO3 : Construct cogent, clearly articulated arguments where the premises rationally support the conclusion
- CLO4 : Propose solutions to the moral challenges confronting both private and public sector professionals

**Detailed Assessment Description**

A critical analysis of the prescribed course material on two topics covered in the course. Please see the course Moodle site for a detailed description of this assessment. Information will be made available in Week 10.

**Permitted use of AI tools: SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE**

For this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to writing or completing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software (this is limited to spelling and grammar checking and reference citation generation) in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate, paraphrase or translate passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text, you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of the submission, you may be referred to the UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

**Please refer to the General Assessment Information section below for information on the requirement to include a cover sheet/declaration with all assessments, disclosing whether AI tools were used.**

**Assessment Length**

1600 words

**Assignment submission Turnitin type**

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## **General Assessment Information**

**Referencing**

APA 7th Edition is the School's Preferred Option.

**Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence at UNSW**

At UNSW, students must use artificial intelligence ethically and responsibly.

This includes:

- Adhering to course/assessment guidelines regarding use of AI tools;
- Acknowledging AI-generated content in your assessments, following UNSW guidance on [Referencing and acknowledging the use of artificial intelligence tools](#). In the School of Business, students are required to include a [cover sheet/declaration](#) for all assessments (see the Assessments Hub on the Course Moodle site). If you do not submit a completed cover sheet/declaration with your assessment, you will be emailed to request resubmission of your assessment with the required cover sheet/declaration (noting your assessment will not be

- graded until the cover sheet is included);
- Not including your own or others' personal or private information in prompts;
  - Verifying and critiquing all AI generated material; and
  - Avoiding using AI tools to translate your writing.

Please refer to [Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence at UNSW](#) for further information.

### **Short Extensions (School of Business, Postgraduate)**

An automatic Short Extension (without documentation) of **seven calendar days** may be available for some assessment tasks in this course. Please check assessment instructions and further guidance on the course Moodle site.

You can apply by accessing the Short Extension Student Portal on the [Special Consideration login page](#).

Applications for Short Extensions MUST be submitted before the assessment due date. Late applications are not permitted. If you do not apply on time, you will have to submit a Special Consideration application with the appropriate supporting documentation, within 3 working days of the assessment due date.

Only one Short Extension can be granted for any given assessment. All subsequent extension requests must be submitted as a Special Consideration application.

For assessment tasks where a Short Extension is not available, students needing an extension (of any duration) must apply via the Special Consideration process.

### **Special Consideration**

Applications for Special Consideration should be submitted BEFORE the assessment due date.

If extenuating circumstances prevent you from submitting an application before the due date, please notify your course convenor by email and submit the application as soon as possible.

If your application is approved, the outcome may be one of the following:

- A supplementary or alternative assessment,
- An extended deadline for the assessment (note the extension granted is normally equivalent to the period of impact outlined in your supporting documentation),
- An aggregated or averaged mark derived from other comparable completed assessments.

Please note, applying for Special Consideration does not automatically mean that you will be granted additional assessment, or that you will be awarded an amended result.

**More information on Short Extensions and Special Consideration:** <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

### **Late Submission of Assessment**

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessment tasks where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment submission deadline. In case of approved Equitable Learning Plan (ELP) provision, special consideration or short extension, the late penalty applies from the date of approved time extension. After five days from the original or extended deadline, a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet assessment task submission and completion deadlines, and to apply for extensions as early as possible before the assessment task deadline.

### **Grading Basis**

Standard

### **Requirements to pass course**

Students must achieve at least 50% overall to pass the course. Students are expected to engage actively in course learning activities and attempt all assessment requirements in the course.

# Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 15 July - 19 July	Topic	Introducing Ethics
Week 2 : 22 July - 26 July	Topic	Ethical Theory
Week 3 : 29 July - 2 August	Topic	The Morality of Market Capitalism
Week 4 : 5 August - 9 August	Topic	Shareholder Primacy
Week 5 : 12 August - 16 August	Topic	Stakeholder Balancing
Week 6 : 19 August - 23 August	Topic	Ethics in Hiring: Meritocracy, Discrimination, and Diversity
Week 7 : 9 September - 13 September	Topic	Advertising and Marketing: Dishonesty, Manipulation, and Vulnerability
Week 8 : 16 September - 20 September	Topic	Exploitation and Sweatshop Labour
Week 9 : 23 September - 27 September	Topic	Employee (mis?)conduct: CV embellishment, workplace loafing, and "legalized extortion"
Week 10 : 30 September - 4 October	Topic	Finance and Insider Trading
Week 12 : 14 October - 18 October	Topic	The Environmental Obligations of Business
Week 13 : 21 October - 25 October	Topic	Revision

## Attendance Requirements

Not Applicable - as no class attendance is required

## General Schedule Information

Please see the course Moodle site for more information.

## Course Resources

### Prescribed Resources

All prescribed readings will made available electronically via UNSW Library.

### Recommended Resources

Supplementary readings will be made available on Moodle.

## Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of this course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the "Ongoing Student Feedback" link in Moodle, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus

groups. Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for this course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

**Important note:** Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct Policy

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Dr Ned Dobs		Building 28, Room 204, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra	+61 2 5114 5071	By appointment	Yes	Yes

## Other Useful Information

### School Contact Information

#### School of Business

Email: [Business@adfa.edu.au](mailto:Business@adfa.edu.au)