

MOT 6XXX, Ethical Decision Making

Sample Syllabus

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' ethical decision making skills in business situations. To do so, students will be exposed to ethical concepts and frameworks relevant to resolving moral problems as well as the moral issues that arise in various business contexts. We will review ethical decision making models and how they can be pragmatically applied to dealing with ethical dilemmas. The course will be discussion oriented with numerous case vignettes, exercises and simulations designed to provide students with the opportunity to both explore their own (and classmates) responses to ethical dilemmas as well as to practice applying ethical decision making models.

Course Materials

Sample Readings

Handy, C. (2002). What's a Business For?. *Harvard Business Review*, December, pp. 49-55.
Velasquez, M., Andre, C., Shanks, T., and Meyer, M. (1996). Thinking Ethically: A framework for moral decision making. *Issues in Ethics*, V7, N1.
Donaldson, T. (1996) Values in Tension: Ethics away from home. *Harvard Business Review*, (September-October)

Sample Cases

Ford Pinto
Cross-cultural ethical decision scenarios.

Video vignettes—ethical dilemma business scenarios developed by Arthur Andersen.
Video clips and cases—Wall Street, Ford Pinto, Enron

Sample Course Topics

- Business ethics: An oxymoron?
- If it's legal it must be ethical: The Ford Pinto Case
- Do the ends justify the means?
- Ethical decision making models
- Identifying ethical issues
- Identifying stakeholders
- Evaluating the impact of decision alternatives on stakeholders
 - Utilitarianism; Duties, Rights and Justice; Fairness; Common Good; Virtue
- Ethical Decision Making: Global Scenarios

Evaluation

Class Participation	30%
Peer Evaluation	20%
Ethical analyses	50%