

PHIL 364: "BUSINESS ETHICS"

INSTRUCTOR: JOHN LAING

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine a variety of ethical issues relating to contemporary business. Types of questions will include the following:

- Should corporations be viewed solely as profit making-entities? Or should they act so as to maintain economic stability, improve the environment, promote a healthier citizenry, or reduce the number of children who work in foreign countries?
- What is the appropriate regulatory response to recent corporate scandals such as Enron, WorldCom, Columbia/HCA, Fannie Mae, AIG others?
- How should corporations be evaluated when it comes to such broader issues of social and economic justice as: market stability, CEO compensation, health care coverage and cost, or disparities in income and wealth?
- What bearing does the increasing globalization of corporations have on topics such as those identified above?

These issues will be looked at from a philosophical perspective, and we will learn how to think more clearly about complex public policy issues regarding corporations.

PREREQUISITES: Department Consent

TEACHING METHOD: Lecture and Discussion

EVALUATION METHOD: In-class team presentation (25%), paper on a topic of the student's choosing (25%) final exam (25%), and contribution to discussion (25%)

READING LIST: "Ethical Issues in Business: A Philosophical Approach", ed. Thomas Donaldson and Patricia H. Warhane, ISBN-10: 0131846191; ISBN-13 978-0-13-184619-7; (8th Edition) as well as classroom handouts (which will also be made available on Blackboard.)