

A. Division: ACADEMIC Date: November 23, 1992

 B. Department: ARTS & HUMANITIES New Course 

 Revision of Course Information Form: 

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

 C. PHILOSOPHY 122 D. BUSINESS ETHICS E. 3  
 Subject & Course No. Descriptive Title Semester Credits

**F. Calendar Description**

What place does ethics have in business? What responsibilities, if any, do managers and professionals have to society? Are corporations moral agents with moral responsibilities distinct from the responsibilities their managers may have as individuals? What rights should workers have to health and safety in the workplace? What rights to equality and non-discrimination do applicants, workers, and managers have? How should any existing inequalities be addressed? Just how loyal should workers and managers have to be? Is there really anything wrong with deception and dishonesty in order to further important ends? What place does ethics have in advertising? In international business interactions? When questions of the environment arise? This course will consider many of these questions, and other related issues. Students will be briefly introduced to the fundamentals of ethical theory and decision making. The theory will often be applied in the discussion of various answers.

**Summary of Revisions:**  
 (Enter date & Section Revised)  
 e.g. 1982-08-25  
 Section C, E, F, & R

<b>G. Type of Instruction</b> Lecture <u>2</u> Hrs Laboratory <u>  </u> Hrs Seminar <u>2</u> Hrs Clinical Experience <u>  </u> Hrs Field Experience <u>  </u> Hrs Practicum <u>  </u> Hrs Shop <u>  </u> Hrs Studio <u>  </u> Hrs Student Directed Learning <u>  </u> Hrs Other (Specify) <u>  </u> Hrs <b>Total</b> <u>4</u> Hrs		<b>H. Course Prerequisite:</b> None	
		<b>I. Course Corequisite:</b> None	
		<b>J. Courses for which this course is a Prerequisite:</b> None	
		<b>K. Maximum Class Size:</b> 35	
<b>L. College Credit Transfer</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College Credit Non-Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Credit <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>M. Transfer Credit</b> Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Granted <input type="checkbox"/> (Specify Course Equivalents or Unassigned Credit as Appropriate) U.B.C. S.F.U. U. Vic. Other	

*Brian E. Simak (a Day Simak)*  
 Course Designer  
*[Signature]*  
 Director / Chairperson

*[Signature]*  
 Divisional Dean  
*[Signature]*  
 Registrar

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N. Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students (Use Bibliographic Form):

SAMPLE TEXT (A similar text may be used with permission of the discipline)

Poff, Deborah C., & Wilfred J. Waluchow (edited by). *Business Ethics in Canada*, 2nd. ed., (Prentice-Hall, 1991).

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Complete Form with Entries Under the Following Headings: O. Course Objectives; P. Course Content;  
Q. Method of Instruction; R. Course Evaluation.

## O. COURSE OBJECTIVES

### General

The main purposes of the course are:

1. to introduce students to the basics of ethical theory;
2. to encourage students to reflect in a critical way about the moral issues which arise in business; and
3. to enable students to develop more effective methods for making up their minds about moral issues in business.

### Specific

Students will be able to demonstrate:

1. a systematic understanding of the ethical theories and concepts covered in the course;
2. the ability to apply ethical theory to the resolution of moral issues in business;
3. an understanding of the moral controversies covered in the course;
4. the ability to explain the moral reasoning involved in viewpoints directly opposed to one another; and
5. the ability to develop their own reasoning about the moral controversies.

## P. COURSE CONTENT

Instruction In this course will cover the following five areas:

1. The nature of ethics-- including the relation between ethics & morality, and morality & law;  
A simple introduction to the basic types of ethical theories: such as, consequentialism (e.g. utilitarianism), deontological theories (e.g. Kantian or moral intuitionism); ethical egoism, social contractarian theories (e.g. Rawls or Nozick), and rights theories;  
The application of such ethical theory to the resolution of moral issues in business;

Continued. . .

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**(P. Course Content Continued)**

2. The place and nature of ethics in the business world-- including the social responsibility of business (e.g., are there obligations to the community beyond those to the shareholders?), the moral status of corporations (e.g. are they moral persons?), and the ethical responsibility of professionals (e.g. for self-regulation, or to assist and encourage citizen advocacy);
3. Ethical concerns about the relationships between employee and employer-- including concerns about health and safety in the workplace (e.g. what rights do employees and employers have?); about employee loyalty and autonomy (e.g. to what extent is an employee required to be a loyal agent? what protections should be offered in cases of "whistleblowing"?); and about discrimination in the work place and in hiring practices (encompassing preferential treatment and affirmative action);
4. Ethical concerns about the relationship between business and special aspects of the outside world-- emphasizing the environment (e.g. are there moral responsibilities to the environment beyond the law?); international businesses (e.g. the morality of sanctions); and the consumer (e.g. exaggeration in advertising); and
5. Special moral topics central to ethical issues in business (e.g. deception) or an examination of morally questionable business practices (e.g. bribery). [These may be covered separately or under items #2, 3 & 4 above.]

All five of these general areas will be covered, but some of #2- 5 may be emphasized more heavily than the others.

**Q. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

A combination of lecture and discussion (possibly including student presentations). Some class sessions may involve formal lectures for the entire time (allowing time for questions), in which case a later class session will allow discussion of the lecture and reading material. Other class sessions may involve a combination of informal lecture and structured discussion.

After the course has been offered for at least two semesters, an alternative method of instruction may be employed involving guest lecturers and equal number of audit students (35) to the number of students taking the course for credit (35). For eight or ten weeks of the semester, a guest lecturer with special expertise may be brought in for one of the two class sessions of the week (e.g. for a 90 or 100 minute lunch-time period). These session will also be open to audit students or to the general public, up to the specified limit of 35 additional students. The remainder of the class sessions in the semester will be reserved for students taking the course for credit.

**R. COURSE EVALUATION**

Any Combination of the following Totaling 100% (To Be Specified the First Day of Class)

Essays (two to four).....	40- 60%
Tests (two or more) .....	20- 40%
Instructor's General Evaluation .....	10- 20%
(Participation, improvement, quizzes, short assignments, etc.) _____	
	100%