PHIL3930 - Human Values & Commercial Practice

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Consultation hours: Monday 3-5pm

Course Overview

Semester: Semester 2 - 2007
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture, Tutorial

Brief Course Description
Teaches the nature and systematic analysis of normative decisions, in particular in business settings. It sets that study in a larger framework of analysis of Western commercial, political and social systems and their functioning, and of the professional ethics that flow from that.

Contact Hours
Tutorial for 2 Hours per Fortnight for 10 Weeks
Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
5 two-hour fortnightly tutorials

Learning Materials/Texts
Additional course readings are available on-line in Auchmuty Library Short Loans.

Course Objectives
(1) to give students a knowledge of the nature and basic principles of normative decisions, particularly in business.
(2) to impart to students the skills required for them to be able to engage in critical assessment of business practice and in problem solving to meet societal ethical expectations.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2007

CTS Download Date: 2/7/07
(3) to enable students to effectively communicate their understanding and to interact effectively so as to problem solve with diverse communal groups.
(4) to provide students with a critical appreciation of the larger framework of Western commercial, political and social systems within which business practice operates, and of the professional ethics that flow from that.

Course Content
The course covers the nature of norms and their application, analyses of major societal systems and their normative character and impacts, and an introduction to ethical corporate design and professional ethics.

Assessment Items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>The tutorial assignment is to help students start on normative, and not just factual, analysis of business problems. Tutorial assignment, 10%.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>The group project provides opportunity to develop an extended normative analysis, demonstrating the application of both knowledge and skills, and provides experience in performing multi-tasking group work. Group project, 30%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination: Formal</td>
<td>The examination evaluates the systematicity of student understanding of basic principles and how to apply them. Examination or Take-home exam, 50%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Tutorial participation, attendance and group presentation, 10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge
Either 10 units of Philosophy courses at 1000 level, or 40 units of any courses at any level.

Callaghan Campus Timetable
PHIL3930
HUMAN VALUES & COMMERCIAL PRACTICE
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture and Tutorial</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>10:00 - 11:00</th>
<th>[EF02]</th>
<th>Wks 3,5,7,9 &amp; 11 only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>[V109]</td>
<td>Wks 3,5,7,9 &amp; 11 only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>13:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>[GP1-30]</td>
<td>Wks 3,5,7,9 &amp; 11 only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>18:00 - 20:00</td>
<td>[V109]</td>
<td>Wks 3,5,7,9 &amp; 11 only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>[V109]</td>
<td>Wks 4,6,8,10 &amp; 12 only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>13:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>[GP1-30]</td>
<td>Wks 4,6,8,10 &amp; 12 only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another’s ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.
For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**Written Assessment Items**

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

**Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations**

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html) for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.
Changing your Enrolment

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2007

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html

Faculty Information

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

Callaghan campus

- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

City Precinct

- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

Ourimbah campus

- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

Faculty websites

Faculty of Business and Law


Faculty of Education and Arts

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/

Faculty of Health

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/

Faculty of Science and Information Technology

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/

Contact details

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie

Phone: 02 4921 5000
Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: 

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

End of CTS Entry
Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - [http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm](http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm)

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Further Information

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

Additional information about course

Readings other than Grace & Cohen and Hosmer are available on-line (go to Library Short Loans, under Course type PHIL3930).

Foundation

**Week 1** 16 July

On the distinction between fact and value

**Weeks 2-3** 23 July, 30 July

Distinguishing and making normative judgements
Reading: Grace & Cohen Business Ethics ch. 1
Hooker, ‘Liberal values and social dynamics’ – Section V8, pp. 98-106
[Hosmer The ethics of management chs. 1, 3, 4]

Context 1

**Week 4** 6 August

Ethical problems
Reading: Grace & Cohen Business Ethics ch. 1, 2, 3, Appendix 1
[Hosmer The ethics of management ch. 5]

Context 2

**Week 5** 13 August

Efficiency, the market and values
Reading: Hooker, ‘Liberal values and social dynamics’ – Section III.2, pp. 8-16
[Hosmer The ethics of management ch.2]
Week 6  
20 August
Ethical Nature of the Market
Reading: Grace & Cohen Business Ethics ch. 4
[Hosmer The ethics of management ch. 2]

Week 7  
27 August
Ethical Performance of the Market
Reading: Hooker, ‘Liberal values and social dynamics’ – Sections III.3, 4, pp. 16-74

Week 8  
3 September
Building ethical corporate cultures
Reading: Grace & Cohen Business Ethics ch. 9,
Hooker, ‘Liberal values and social dynamics’ – Section V7, pp. 95-98
Mumford, ‘Systems Design in an Unstable Environment’
[Hosmer The ethics of management ch. 6]

Week 9  
10 September
Professional roles, responsibilities and ethics
Reading: Grace & Cohen Business Ethics ch. 7,
Hooker, ‘Liberal values and social dynamics’ - Section V6, pp. 89-95
[Hosmer The ethics of management ch. 5]

Week 10  
17 September
Codes of ethics
Reading: Grace & Cohen Business Ethics chs 7, 10,
[Hosmer The ethics of management ch. 6]

Context 3
Weeks 11-13  24 September, 15, 22 October
Western culture, institutions and values
Reading: Grace & Cohen Business Ethics ch. 11,
Hooker, ‘Liberal values and social dynamics’ – Sections III.1, 4, 5, pp.1-7, 62-88
English, ‘Bribery and the United States foreign corrupt practices act’
Purves, ‘Filling the iron rice bowl’

Tutorials

Weeks 3, 4: Ethics and the Dirty Hands problem
Issue: In your main text (ch.1) you will see that there are a number of theories employed to deal with ethical problems. In this tutorial you will be asked to define the principal theories (utilitarianism, deontological, situation, and virtue ethics). Then you will be asked to consider what role, if any, ethics should play in commercial practice. Is the morality we employ in our ordinary lives quite different from that which we use to guide our actions and decisions in business? This raises the Dirty Hands problem (ch.2) and the arguments of Carr, Friedmann and others, that the way we conduct ourselves in our ordinary lives and in business are just different activities, or games, which employ quite different rules.
Readings: Grace & Cohen chs.1, 2 [Hosmer chs.4, 5, cf. p.125]

Weeks 5, 6: Ethical problem solving – the 4-step strategy
Issue: Each group will be given a typical ethical problem that may arise in business. You will be asked to consider all the material carefully and work through the 4-step strategy to analyse clearly the moral issues and dilemmas raised. You will then be asked to decide on what you believe would be the best solution to the problem.
Reading: material distributed at the end of the previous tutorial.

Weeks 7, 8: Professional responsibilities
Issue: Groups will be asked to consider three questions: a) what is a profession?; b) what general responsibilities do you think professions have?; and c) are there other occupations, like business, that should also be considered as professions?
Readings: Grace & Cohen ch. 7; Hooker, ‘Liberal values and social dynamics’ – Section V6, pp.89-95;
Callahan, ‘Professions and professionalization’.
**Weeks 9, 10: Ethical institutional design**

Issue: The Exxon Valdez case. In this tutorial you will be asked to consider a number of questions. Firstly, what happened? Who do you think was responsible? How could it have been prevented? Secondly, what codes of ethics should there be to prevent events of this kind from happening again? Thirdly, consider the Exxon code of ethics. Compare with Johnson and Johnson’s. What should a good code of ethics contain? What other procedures/policies/regulations might be adopted to improve the ethical behaviour of organisations? Finally, what are the advantages and disadvantages to businesses of adopting codes of ethics? What do you think are likely to be the consequences in terms of profitability, manageability, accountability and predictability within the organisation?


**Weeks 11, 12: Cross-cultural ethical judgement**

Issue: Groups will be asked to consider the different forms of gift-giving and commissions within and between cultures. You will also be asked to consider what is meant by bribery and when, if ever, it is justified.


**Assessment details**

This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the course. These essential elements are described in the CTS. Refer - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000648.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000648.html)

Assessment items are as follows:

**Tutorial attendance: 10%**

All students must enrol in a tutorial. Tutorials will assess how well students are coming to grips with the basic issues and concepts of the course. At the first meeting, tutorial procedures and assignments will be explained, and we will organise the work groups of 4-6 students. These workgroups will form the basis for informal tutorial activities, as well as for the group assignment. Tutorial attendance, participation, and group presentation are worth 10%. Due: throughout. Tutorials start in WEEK 3.

**Tutorial assignment: 10%**

The tutorial assignment is to help students start on normative, and not just factual, analysis of business problems. The tutorial assignment is worth 10%. Due: 20th August.

**Group project: 30%**

Groups of 4-6 students (the initial tutorial groups) will write a 3000 word essay. You will all take equal final responsibility for the group project. The group project provides the opportunity to develop an extended normative analysis, demonstrating the application of both knowledge and skills, and provides experience in performing multi-tasking group work. The group project is worth 30%. Due: 24th September.

**Examination: 50%**

There will be an examination at the end of semester, at a time to be arranged by examinations branch. The exam will be 2 hours long. The examination evaluates the systematicity of student understanding of basic principles and how to apply them. The exam is worth 50%.