

Business, Society, & Ethics

BA 3102**Spring 2023**

Instructor:	Dr. Kathleen Voss
Office Hours:	Via Zoom, Tuesday 1-2:30 PM <u>by appointment</u>
Office Location:	350 Alter Hall
Zoom Dates:	Tuesdays 12-12:50PM EST
Contact Information:	kathleen.voss@temple.edu
Add/ Drop Deadline:	1/30/2023

Course Description:

This course challenges students to consider the ethical obligations of corporations and their employees to a wide variety of societal stakeholders. Students are exposed to a broad range of ethical dilemmas that can arise in the business world and are offered the tools and taught the skills to respond to such dilemmas. Most significantly, the course encourages students to critically examine a preeminent societal institution of which they are a part, with the possibility that they can ultimately be forces for positive change.

My Teaching Philosophy

My goal through our work together is to provide you with information as well as practical examples to help you think about and to understand the concept of ethics in a business setting and to help you develop skills and confidence to think critically and to make effective decisions based upon what we learn about ethics when you are out there in the world at work. Through this course, it is my intent to help you think about how and where can apply what you learn to accelerate your performance and your positive impact at work. I believe effective performance in the classroom is a partnership-you do your part by coming to class prepared and ready to participate and by completing expected assignments and I will do my part by coming to class prepared and ready to facilitate and by being responsive with feedback, grades and answers to your questions. If you have any questions about this course, or career questions, please make an appointment to visit me during my office hours. **Please do not use (limited, valuable) class time to ask questions about due dates, assignments, etc.**

Required Reading, Videos & Materials:**Readings, Discussions and Videos:**

- Each week, you will be asked to complete reading assignments, discussion boards and video assignments. Links for readings and videos are included in this syllabus and in Canvas. However, you will need to perform additional research and cite articles/sources beyond what is provided for weekly readings in order to fulfill assignment requirements.
- All reading, discussion and video assignments should be completed prior to the class they are assigned. This directly impacts your grade for the course.

Technology Requirements:

The expectation for online courses is that students participate both by video and audio. All students are required to have a working camera and headset during class times. Class sessions are recorded, and the recordings are posted shortly after class, please be aware that anything said during class sessions will be included and posted.

- Headphones
- Webcam: You are required to keep your webcam on during the duration of the class session (this is a program requirement at Fox). Failure to do so will affect your participation grade and may result in you being removed from class sessions.
- Webcam equipped computer or computer with external webcam. Students will NOT be able to participate in multiple experiences in this course using a phone or standard tablet. Substantial points will be deducted for not participating using required access.
- Recommended Internet Speed: 8mbps download & 5mbps upload. You can test your connection at <https://www.speedtest.net>
- Please note: Hard-wired connections are more consistent than Wi-Fi for Zoom sessions

Program Objectives:

- P1: Understand critical business concepts.
- P2: Apply critical thinking to business problems.
- P3: Demonstrate effective oral and written communication.
- P4: Understand the ethical, legal, and social responsibilities of individuals and organizations.

Access more information on the Learning Goals and Assurance of Learning here:

<https://www.fox.temple.edu/undergraduate-bba/learning-goals/>

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to...

1. To increase your awareness of the mutual ethical responsibilities existing between the contemporary business organization and its internal and external stakeholders.
2. To expose you to some of the ethical dilemmas confronted by employees within business organizations, and to improve upon your skills in resolving these types of dilemmas.

- To enable you to become *critical* of a powerful institution - BUSINESS - of which you are a part so that you can help to create positive change.

Method of Instruction:

This is a synchronous course with live virtual meetings once a week over 15 weeks. Virtual classes meet using a video conferencing tool. This course has been rigorously designed to effectively help students reach the course objectives through various deliverables. Attention to the course schedule and the order of assignment completion is key to student success. It is incumbent upon students to work through all materials provided, attend optional office hours and ask questions as they come up to ensure successful completion of all deliverables in a timely fashion.

This course combines weekly assignments, readings, discussions, and Zoom classroom sessions.

Grade Breakdown:

Item	Group/Individual	Weight
Class attendance/participation-includes in class assignments (150 points)	Individual	16%
Weekly Discussion Board participation (15-20 points per week)	Individual	30%
Individual Assignments (2-150 points each)	Individual	30%
Team Assignments (2-100 points each)	Group/Individual	20%
Exams (30 points per Exam)	Individual	9%
Total		100%

Questions/discussions about grades are available for one week after each grade is posted in Canvas. Grades are final after one week and will not be changed.

Grading Scale:

100 – 93 A	92 – 90 A–	
89 – 87 B+	86 – 83 B	82 – 80 B–
79 – 77 C+	76 – 73 C	72 – 70 C–
69 – 67 D+	66 – 63 D	62 – 60 D–
59 – 0 F		

Grading System:

Grades are assigned to correspond as closely as possible to a standard (“bell curve”) distribution. This means that the majority of the class will end up with B’s and C’s. The traditional grading will be used as an approximate guideline. Depending on the class’s performance and other factors, faculty reserve the right to curve the final class grades either up or down in order to conform to a standard distribution.

Once the final distribution has been determined, no exceptions will be made. Remember, the time to discuss any problems you are having with the course and/or the grades you’ve received is during the semester (within seven days of a grade being posted), not after classes are over!

Attendance and Participation:

Expectations are very high in this class in terms of class attendance and participation. Attendance and participation are worth significant points. These should be the easiest points to earn in this course! Attending class and all team discussions/presentations is mandatory. I will take attendance via Zoom in some class sessions, and many classes will have an in-class quiz, deliverable or activity that requires attendance. If you miss these, you cannot make them up.

If you have a legitimate need to miss a class session, you must contact me in advance of the class session in order to be excused. You will be required to complete an alternate written assignment to earn credit for the missed class session. Approval for excused absences are at the discretion of the instructor. Unexcused absences will result in reduced participation/attendance grades.

As we all know, it is frustrating to be in online meetings with people who don’t have cameras on and/or are not participating! Cameras and microphones must be on during class. Texting, use of social media and websites other than your Canvas and Zoom connections are not permitted during class sessions. You will lose points for from your course grade for not being actively engaged in class sessions and you may be removed from live class sessions if your camera is not on and/or if you do not respond to questions.

Assignment Descriptions:

You will be required to submit four assignments (more than 50% of your grade). Assignment instructions and submission details are in Canvas. Two assignments will be completed individually. Two assignments will be done in project groups and include recorded team presentations (submitted in Canvas as a project group submission, must include a recording link and slides) that will be graded by the instructor. There is an individual deliverable due after each group project where each group member will provide feedback (including specific examples) about the collaboration quality and contributions of each group member. You will be assigned a project group in class.

Assignment 1: Corporate Ethics Analysis Assignment (Individual Assignment)

Assignment 2: Sustainability/Corporate Responsibility Analysis Assignment (Individual Assignment)

Debate 1 (Project Group Assignment)

Ethics Proposal (Project Group Assignment)

A self-peer evaluation is due from each student (individually) for each group project. Trends from evaluations will impact assignment AND participation grades for this course.

Exams:

There will be three exams during the semester. Exams will cover content covered during a 4-5 week period, and the weeks of content and exam weeks are specified in Canvas and in this syllabus. Exams will cover material from assigned readings that we do/do not cover during class as well as topics we cover during class that may not be covered in the readings. The third exam in this course may be a comprehensive final exam. The instructor will confirm whether the third exam is comprehensive after Exam 2 grades are posted.

Discussion Boards:

During the semester, we will participate in online discussion forums during most weeks. Your responses on the discussion board are required to be completed during the week assigned and, combined, are **worth 30% of your grade in this class**. Each forum will formally remain open for 4-5 days (typically open on Tuesdays and close on Mondays). **IMPORTANT: Substantive participation in the forum on at least two different days must occur during the week the forum is open on order to receive credit. **Your first substantive post must be submitted by Thursday. Second and additional posts must be submitted by Monday.**** A substantive post builds upon the discussion by introducing new ideas and/or examples and should include references or citations for sources of information. Posts that go on for several paragraphs are not as likely to be read by your fellow students. Also, short posts (e.g., "I agree, good point!") are welcomed but will not be credited toward your grade. More than 2 (substantive) posts per forum will ensure that you fulfill the DB requirements and will help you connect with and build credibility with other students.

Both quantity and quality of posts is evaluated. Quality is assessed by:

- the overall content of your posts including how well they incorporate articles from class (where applicable) and additional research you conduct independently,
- the degree to which your posts relate to other posts on the discussion board. Relating to other posts means such things as adding ideas to previous posts and respectfully disagreeing with previous posts,
- the specificity and applicability of examples, articles cited and/or theories cited

Zoom Virtual Classes:

This course will meet once a week using Zoom. Zoom is downloaded to your computer the first time you use it and does require regular updates; please [download the latest version of Zoom](#) and open the downloaded file to install the app before the course begins. If you have already downloaded Zoom for a previous course, click [review instructions on updating to the latest version](#).

Make sure you enter your first name and last name correctly when signing into your Zoom session. **Make sure to log into class using required technology so you will not lose points for being unable to fully participate (translation: no phones).** Please log into the virtual classes before the scheduled class time, as we will begin promptly. You can access the virtual classes in Canvas under the “Zoom” link in your Course Navigation. Students in classes with Zoom registration enabled can also access sessions via the link that is emailed to them.

Zoom Walkthroughs:

The program encourages students new to Zoom to join a student Zoom Walkthrough. Attendance to a pre-course Zoom Walkthrough is suggested for those new to the online course structure to test your audio and video prior to your first meeting. A list of Zoom Walkthroughs can be found [here](#).

Academic Honesty:

Represent only your own work as your own. *Personal integrity* is the basis for intellectual and academic integrity. University and school rules and standards prohibit "academic misconduct" by any student.

Cheating on assignments and/or exams is totally unacceptable. Students found to be cheating will automatically receive a grade of F for the course and the offense may result in the student being expelled from the university.

Turnitin Canvas Plagiarism Tracking: All major written assignments and presentations will be submitted to Turnitin in Canvas for originality. Turnitin detects plagiarism in student work. Any identical wording between your paper and that of any other paper currently or previously submitted virtually anywhere else can be detected easily – which constitutes as plagiarism. **Any submission that returns a “red flag” Turnitin report (indicates substantial duplication of content, not including template questions or instructions) will receive a ZERO grade for the course. No exceptions.**

Class Participation:

Expectations are very high in this class in terms of class attendance and participation. These should be the easiest points to earn in this course! Participating in class and team discussions/presentations is necessary to avoid points deduction (this means active participation, including compliance with the program requirement that cameras and microphones be on during live sessions to be considered present). Most classes will have an in-class quiz, debate/discussion or activity that contributes to your final grade. If you miss these, you cannot make them up. You will lose points for from your course grade for not being actively engaged in class sessions and may be removed from class sessions if you are not viewable/audible.

Inclement Weather Policy:

Please be advised that while Temple University campuses may close for inclement weather, online courses are not on-campus and therefore are still expected to meet. Your instructor will contact you regarding any

adjustments needed in the event of a power outage or severe circumstances. Should you have any questions, please contact the professor.

Temple University's Technology Usage Policy:

This site includes information on unauthorized access, disclosure of passwords, and sharing of accounts.

<https://secretary.temple.edu/sites/secretary/files/policies/04.71.11.pdf>

Disability Statement:

Any student who has need of accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Temple University's Disability Resources and Services (DRS) office at (215)204-1280 at 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Please contact your instructor and the DRS within the first week of class, at the beginning of the semester. DRS will establish your needs and make necessary arrangements with faculty. If you choose not to contact DRS, and have difficulty, you will be unable to receive accommodations retroactively, once exams are completed and/or course grades are submitted. Such decisions are made jointly between the DRS office and the instructor, at their discretion based on circumstances. Accommodation letters must be received by the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester.

Course Schedule

**Subject to change at the discretion of the Professor*

Session	Topic	Assignment	Assignment Due <i>All times are EST</i>
Week #1	First Week of Class Understanding the Market and how it works	Review: Syllabus Read: Summary chapter: Wealth of Nations-Book 1 and 2 Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used with Permission from the Adam Smith Institute: Retrieve from http://www.adamsmith.org/sites/default/files/resources/condensed-WoN.pdf 	Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		<p style="color: red;">Reminder: First Discussion Board Post due this Thursday and follow-up posts are due next Monday.</p>	
		Attend: Zoom Session #1	On: Tuesday, from 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: Syllabus confirmation	Due: Friday at 11:59PM
Week #2	Defining Business Ethics and Organizational Ethics	Follow up Posts: Week 1 Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
		Read: Article "Outside-the-box ethics"	Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Watch: ENRON, A. Anderson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwoUzVomUc 	
		Attend: Zoom Session #2	On: Tuesday, from 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #3	Defining Business Ethics and Organizational Ethics-Contd.	Follow up Posts: Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
		Read: "Necessary but not sufficient" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://hbr.org/2015/04/sc-johnsons-ceo-on-doing-the-right-thing-even-when-it-hurts-business 	Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Attend: Zoom Session #3	On: Tuesday 12:00-12:55PM

Session	Topic	Assignment	Assignment Due <i>All times are EST</i>
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #4	Corporate Social Responsibility Assignment 1 Due	Follow up Posts: Discussion Board Complete: Assignment #1 Read: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/opinion/frank-bruni-dov-charney-american-apparel-and-sexual-harassment.html?_r=0	Due: Monday by 11:59PM Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Attend: Zoom Session #4	On: Tuesday 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #5		Follow up Posts: Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
	Exam 1	Complete: Exam 1 (opens at 12:00PM Tuesday)	Due: by 1:00 PM EST
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #6	Corporate Governance in a Global Market	Follow up Posts: Discussion Board Read: "Challenges of governing globally" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://hbr.org/2015/05/compliance-alone-wont-make-your-company-safe 	Due: Monday by 11:59PM Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Attend: Zoom Session #5	On: Tuesday 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM

Session	Topic	Assignment	Assignment Due <i>All times are EST</i>
Week #7	Ethical Considerations in a Competitive Market	Follow up Posts: Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
		Read: Article 38, "Conceptualizing a framework for global business ethics"	Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Attend: Zoom Session #6	On: Tuesday, 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week 8		ENJOY YOUR BREAK!	
Week #9	Ethics and Technology Assignment 2 due	Follow up Posts: Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
		Complete: Assignment #2	Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The ethics of social media-part 1" • "The ethics of social media, part 2" 	
		Attend: Zoom Session #9	On: Tuesday, 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #10		Follow up Posts: Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
	Exam 2	Attend: Zoom Session #10-Exam Complete: Exam 2 (opens Tuesday 12:00PM)	Due: Tuesday by 1:00 PM EST
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM

Session	Topic	Assignment	Assignment Due <i>All times are EST</i>
Week #11	Ethics and Employees	Follow up Posts: Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
		Read: Articles in Canvas	Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #12	Corporate and Government Whistle Blowers Debate Due	Complete: Debate Project Due (Team) AND Debate self-peer evaluation due (individual)	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
		Follow up Posts: Discussion Board Watch: Quarsize Corruption https://www.ted.com/talks/erika_cheung_theranos_whistleblowing_and_speaking_truth_to_power/transcript?language=en Read: Articles in Canvas	Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Attend: Zoom Session #12	On: Tuesday, 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #13	Consumerism Assignment 3 due	Follow up Posts: Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
		Watch: "Basic Training" Read: Articles on Canvas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/11/how-humans-became-consumers/508700/ 	Due: Tuesday, by 11:00AM
		Attend: Zoom Session #13	On: Tuesday 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #14	Ethics Proposal Project Due	Due: Ethics Proposal project AND self-peer evaluation due (individual)	On: Tuesday, by 11:00AM

Session	Topic	Assignment	Assignment Due <i>All times are EST</i>
		Attend: Zoom Session #14	On: Tuesday 12:00-12:55PM
		Submit: First Discussion Board Post	Due: Thursday at 11:59PM
Week #15		Follow up Posts: Discussion Board	Due: Monday by 11:59PM
	Exam 3	Attend: Zoom Session #15 Complete: Exam 3 (opens Tuesday 12:00 PM)	Due: Tuesday by 1:00 PM EST
		Complete: e-SFF Student Course Evaluation	Due: Thursday by 11:59 PM