

Course syllabus

1. Core data

Course code	Credits	Semester
293NBUSV498B	6	
Course title in English		
Business Ethics		
Course title in Hungarian		
Business Ethics		
Course title in other language		
Course leader	Institute	
Kovács Gábor László	Corvinus Institute for Advanced Studies	
Course type	Type of final assessment	
BA/BSc professional subject	Exam	
Language of instruction	Class schedule	
English	Semester	
Number of theoretical classes per week (full-time programmes)	Number of practical classes per week (full-time programmes)	
2	2	
Term when the course is announced/started		

2. Main features

Course objectives
The course introduces the basic concepts and models of business ethics with a special emphasis on doing progressive and genuinely ethical business. It explores the ethical challenges facing business today, and how individuals and firms can address those challenges. The course aims to enhance the skills and expertise of participants through combining examination of ethical and managerial theory with discussion of common ethical problems in context. It aims also to sensitize students with ethical aspects of business decisions.
Brief description of the course

The theory and the practice of business ethics will be discussed during the course. Course material includes individual moral theory, ethical motives, profit versus morality, corporate social responsibility, the stakeholder theory of business, the development of ethical organizational culture, ethical institutions, ethical decision making, and the development of ethical management systems designed to respond to ethical challenges, and wide-ranging discussion regarding major trends, challenges, and opportunities in the field of ethical business.

During the course we will discuss

- the fundamentals of business ethics,
- the different ethical theories,
- the relevance of ethical dilemmas in different stakeholder groups (employees, consumers, suppliers, government etc.),
- the application of ethical approach in decision making process
- some contemporary business cases from different industries and areas

3. Learning outcomes

Skills	Knowledge
To recognize the complexity of ethical problems in business and economics, and to approach these problems by using multi-perspective, holistic methods.	To know ethical paradigms and models applicable to present-day business.
To recognize the complexity of ethical problems in business and economics, and to approach these problems by using multi-perspective, holistic methods.	To know ethical paradigms and models applicable to present-day business.
To recognize the complexity of ethical problems in business and economics, and to approach these problems by using multi-perspective, holistic methods.	To know ethical paradigms and models applicable to present-day business.
To recognize the complexity of ethical problems in business and economics, and to approach these problems by using multi-perspective, holistic methods.	To know ethical paradigms and models applicable to present-day business.
Attitudes	Autonomy and responsibility
<p>To develop a caring attitude for the stakeholders, including nature and future generations, in business settings.</p> <p>To be open and inclusive of new achievements in economics and practice and shows a willingness to discuss problems from more point of view.</p> <p>To use ethical views in the adaptation of a solution.</p> <p>To be open to professional feedback and to different views in a debate.</p>	<p>To solve ethical problems individually and collectively.</p> <p>To be not hesitant to represent reasoned professional opinion with honesty and conviction in decision-making situations, even when the belief is in the minority or unpopular.</p> <p>To independently select and apply relevant and ethical problem-solving methods in decision-making situations regarding business.</p>

4. Assessment system of the course

Method of assessment

20% Mid-term exam (essays, case study analysis) 40% Group assignment (paper and presentation) 20% Attendance and class participation 20% Final Exam (essays, case study analysis)		
Study activity	Minimum requirement for the course completion (if any)	Weighting of student activity in the final assessment (%)
Group project: Groups of 2-3 students select a recent business ethics case (scandal, challenge, problem, positive solution, heroic activity, etc.) based on the provided guidelines and prepare a review paper (lengths: min.10 pages - max.15 pages with 12 Font size, 1,5 lines). Based on the review paper groups prepare an appr.10-minute presentation to class members and generate professional discussion about it with them in appr. 10 min. length.		40
Group project: Groups of 2-3 students select a recent business ethics case (scandal, challenge, problem, positive solution, heroic activity, etc.) based on the provided guidelines and prepare a review paper (lengths: min.10 pages - max.15 pages with 12 Font size, 1,5 lines). Based on the review paper groups prepare an appr.10-minute presentation to class members and generate professional discussion about it with them in appr. 10 min. length.		40
Group project: Groups of 2-3 students select a recent business ethics case (scandal, challenge, problem, positive solution, heroic activity, etc.) based on the provided guidelines and prepare a review paper (lengths: min.10 pages - max.15 pages with 12 Font size, 1,5 lines). Based on the review paper groups prepare an appr.10-minute presentation to class members and generate professional discussion about it with them in appr. 10 min. length.		40

<p>Group project: Groups of 2-3 students select a recent business ethics case (scandal, challenge, problem, positive solution, heroic activity, etc.) based on the provided guidelines and prepare a review paper (lengths: min.10 pages - max.15 pages with 12 Font size, 1,5 lines). Based on the review paper groups prepare an appr.10-minute presentation to class members and generate professional discussion about it with them in appr. 10 min. length.</p>		40
--	--	----

5. Compulsory readings

Compulsory reading	URL
<p>Andrew Crane, Dirk Matten (2016): Business Ethics, Fourth Edition; Selected readings detailed in the table of class schedule</p>	

6. Recommended reading

Recommended reading	URL

7. Thematic weekly schedule

Week no.	Brief description of topic
1	<p>Introduction to the Course and Introducing Business Ethics Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 1; Laszlo Zsolnai: "Future of Capitalism" in Laszlo Zsolnai (Ed.): Handbook of Business Ethics - Ethics in the New Economy. 2013. Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, Oxford. pp. 249-264.</p>
2	<p>Framing Business Ethics: Corporate Social Responsibility, Stakeholders Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 2; Laszlo Zsolnai: Extended Stakeholder Theory" Society and Business Review 2006. No. 1. pp. 37-44.; Patrick E. Murphy and Caitlin E. Murphy: „Sustainable Living: Unilever" in Progressive Business Models. Creating Sustainable and Pro-Social Enterprise. 2018. Palgrave-Macmillan, London. pp. 263-286.</p>
3	<p>Normative Ethical Theories Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 3; Stanford Cyclopedia of Philosophy: "Virtue Ethics", "Deontological Ethics", and "Consequentialism" https://plato.stanford.edu/</p>
4	<p>Descriptive Ethical Theories Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 4; Laszlo Zsolnai: "Ethical Decision Making" Interdisciplinary Yearbook of Business Ethics. 2006. Peter Lang Publishers. Oxford. pp. 99-119.</p>

5	<p>Tools and Techniques of Business Ethics Management</p> <p>Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 5; Josep M. Lozano: "Organizational Ethics" in Laszlo Zsolnai (Ed.): Handbook of Business Ethics - Ethics in the New Economy. 2013. Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, Oxford. pp. 103-126.; Luk Bouckaert: The Ethics Management Paradox in Zsolnai, Laszlo (Ed.): Interdisciplinary Yearbook of Business Ethics, Vol.1, 2006</p>
6	<p>Guest lecturer</p> <p>Reading: András Ócsai: Ecologically Conscious Business Organizations and Their Value Orientations in: Ecologically Conscious Organizations. Palgrave Studies in Sustainable Business In Association with Future Earth. 2021. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.</p>
7	<p>Midterm exam: Content will be based on the materials discussed during the lectures and seminars.</p>
8	<p>Business Ethics in Context - Shareholders and Business Ethics</p> <p>Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 6; Lynn A. Stout: The Shareholder Value Myth: How Putting Shareholders First Harms Investors, Corporations, and the Public. 2012. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler.</p>
9	<p>Employees and Business Ethics</p> <p>Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 7; Ina Aust, Brian Matthews, Michael Muller-Camen (2020): Common Good HRM: A paradigm shift in Sustainable HRM? Human Resource Management Review 30.</p>
10	<p>Consumers and Business Ethics</p> <p>Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 8; Zsolt Boda: Fair Trade Movement in Luk Bouckaert & Laszlo Zsolnai (Eds.): The Palgrave Handbook of Spirituality and Business. 2011. London, Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 396-403.</p>
11	<p>Suppliers, Competitors, and Business Ethics</p> <p>Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 9; Henry Mintzberg: How Productivity Killed American Enterprise http://www.mintzberg.org</p>
12	<p>Civil Society and Business Ethics & Government, Regulation, and Business Ethics</p> <p>Reading: Crane-Matten: Business Ethics Chapter 10-11; Boda, Z., O'Higgins, E., Schedler, K. (2009). Cooperating with Social and Political Actors. In: Zsolnai, L., Tencati, A. (eds) The Future International Manager. Palgrave Macmillan, London, pp. 130-152.</p>
13	<p>Group project presentations</p>
14	<p>Final Exam</p>

8. Class data

Course code	Course type	Lecturer(s)	Time and venue

9. Prerequisites and further information

Code of study programme	Name of study programme	Description of prerequisites

10. Class participation

Not to be confused with attendance, class participation is the practice of engaging your professor and fellow students during presentations and discussions with thoughtful and timely contributions. If you miss classes it will have an impact on your participation points!

Opinions vary, civility is constant. You should feel free to question or disagree with other students; however, such disagreement must be based on the idea and not the person. Respect for your peers and professor is the sine qua non of great discussions and great learning experiences.

DO NOTE THAT EVERY POINT IS EARNED, NOT NEGOTIATED!

11. Plagiarism

Any and all statements contained in any assignment or paper that are based upon ideas or words of another must be properly credited to the original author or source. Paraphrasing the ideas or words of another is acceptable so long as the original author or source is cited. **DO NOT** quote words or expressions from existing works verbatim without designating the passage as a quote and crediting the source. Any student who plagiarizes the work of any other person (author, professor, student, parent, friend, etc.) is committing academic dishonesty and misconduct. Any student caught committing plagiarism will automatically fail the course.

12. Grade Conversion Table for Courses taught in English

Percentage achieved	Hungarian Grade	ECTS grade	International Grade	Explanation
97 - 100	5	A	A+	Excellent
94 - 96	5	A	A	Excellent
90 - 93	5	A	A-	Excellent
87 - 89	5	B	B+	Excellent/Very good
84 - 86	4	C	B	Good
80 - 83	4	C	B-	Good
77 - 79	4	C	C+	Good
74 - 76	3	D	C	Satisfactory
70 - 73	3	D	C-	Satisfactory
67 - 69	3	D	D+	Satisfactory
64 - 66	2	D	D	Low pass/Sufficient
51 - 63	2	E	D-	Low pass/Sufficient
0 - 50	1	FX/F	F	Fail, o credit
	N		N	No grade received, o credit