

Phil 3314 Business Ethics Brooklyn College Spring 2013
Dr. Dena Shottenkirk
Text: James Rachels *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* (7th Edition) or others

January 28	Introductory Lecture
January 31	Chapter 1 <i>What is Morality?</i>
Feb. 4	Chapter 2 <i>The Challenge of Moral Relativism</i>
Feb. 6	Chapter 3 <i>Subjectivism in Ethics</i>
Feb. 11	Chapter 4 <i>Does Morality Depend upon Religion?</i>
Feb. 13	Chapter 5 <i>Ethical Egoism</i>
Feb. 18	SCHOOL CLOSED
Feb. 20	Chapter 6 <i>The Ideal of a Social Contract</i>
Feb. 25	Chapter 7 <i>The Utilitarian Approach</i>
Feb. 27	Chapter 8 <i>The Debate over Utilitarianism</i>
March 4	Chapter 9 <i>Are There Absolute Moral Rules?</i>
March 6	Chapter 10 <i>Kant and Respect for Persons</i>
March 11	Chapter 11 <i>Feminism and the Ethics of Care</i>
March 13	Chapter 12 <i>The Ethics of Virtue</i>
March 15	Chapter 13 <i>What Would a Satisfactory Morality Look Like?</i>

The following classes will deal with current problems in the business world; reading assignments will be emailed the week before.

March 18	Truth-telling in Business: Capitalism, competition, and the role of law
March 25- APRIL 2	SPRING RECESS March 27
April 1	Insider Trading
April 3	The recent housing crisis: Insider Job movie
April 8	Whistle-blowing: hand out & current affairs

April 10	Financial Restructuring and Investing: mergers, LBO's
April 15	Anti-trust law and Microsoft
April 17	Kickbacks and Bribery
April 22	Discrimination, Affirmative Action, Workers' rights & duties
April 24	Multinationals and Globalization: Transparency International
April 29	Fraud
May 6	Student presentations
May 8	Student presentations
May 13	review final (& finish student presentations)
MAY 15	review for final

Requirements:

Attendance:	More than 3 unexcused absences, and the grade will be dropped one grade point for each absence. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted to class.
Class participation:	Students are expected to participate in class discussions giving comments relevant to the text and readings. Texting on phones or surfing the internet will result in a dropped grade.
Paper:	Write a 7 page paper (Times New Roman, 11 font, 1" margins top, bottom, sides) that is critical analysis of any reading to date (this section is an exegesis only, and should take about 5 – 5 1/2 pages of your paper) followed by a page to a page and a half of your <i>argument</i> against of for it. I offer to meet with each student individually to discuss this after I hand the paper back to you. The paper can be re-written, responding to the professor's comments. That grade is the final grade.
Student Presentation	Students will have selected a topic (to be handed out by the professor). The student will do EXTENSIVE research on the topic, gaining information from at least ten different sources (culled from NYTimes Business Section, Barron's, Business Week, WSJ, The Financial Times, Fortune). The presentation will be 8-10 minutes, and will be given from note cards, not read directly from a paper. Powerpoint in permitted.
Test:	Final, true/false test.

Assessment and Grading:

Paper	due Feb. 22	30%
	Re-write due March 12	
Presentation		25%
Final Exam		25%
Class participation		10%

Attendance

10%

Goals of Course:

1. Students will gain a basic understanding of the broad discipline of ethics, and its application to business
2. Students will develop their critical reasoning skills
3. Students will develop their ability to write and verbally communicate their ideas

Plagiarism:

Will not be tolerated. Plagiarism consists of copying something and not giving credit to the author.

Contact:

Email: DSHOTTENKIRK@brooklyn.cuny.edu office hours: Monday 5-6. My office is 3311 Boylan. I do not check email over the weekend. Please limit emails to essential communication; it is not necessary to email regarding missed classes. It is better to speak in person regarding that.

How to succeed in this class:

Keep up on readings. Come to class prepared and expect to read the texts at least twice. Outline the main points.

Quiz yourself or have a classmate quiz you.

Participate in Class Discussions. *If you have not understood some of the material, ask in class for a fuller explanation.*

Study for the test with a study group.

Re-write the papers. I offer students the chance to re-write their papers and to raise the grade on the basis of the comments I make. (one time offer per paper only!)

Disability:

Students must request academic accommodations within first two weeks of semester. Please talk to me privately if there is an issue you would like me to help you with. In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations, students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services (CSDS). Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the director of the CSDS, Valerie Stewart-Lovell, 138 Roosevelt Hall, 718.951.5538. If you have already registered with the CSDS, please provide me with the paperwork.