Business Ethics

Undergrate Course Syllabus

Part 1:

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. General Information

- Full course title: Ethics of International Business
- Type of course: Compulsory
- Level of course: B.A.
- Year of study: 3rd
- Number of ECTS credits allocated:
- Name of the instructor: Prof. Dr. Eberhard Grein
- E-mail: e.grein@my.mgimo.ru

1.2. Position-fixing in international business

The term "business ethics" refers to ethics pertaining to companies or organisations. Applied ethics is based first and foremost on general ethics. This is derived from classical virtues as well as theories of justice. Business ethics is concerned with the moral evaluation of economic systems and attempts to evince cooperative approaches for any dissent which arises. This is important above all because criticism of the capitalist-dominated economic system, but also of the market-based model and of companies, is increasing, meaning that normative orientational knowledge with a view to the overall economic context is gaining in significance. The focus here is on the question of whether moral norms and ideals are effective or can be implemented in today's business world. An extended approach to economy is required, including a set of rules for business ethics. This thus raises the question of how norms can be justified or in what sense economic consequences of moral behaviour are the object of business ethics.

1.3. Course aims and learning outcomes

- The course will examine an introduction to the ethics of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Karl Marx, David Hume and John Rawls. However, it also broaches the issue of the ethical implications of globalisation.

- The course refers to social justice and sustainability, which play a central role in business ethics.

- The course aims to increase awareness of and sensitivities to moral aspects, which are required from business for professionals on the daily basis, both as a reflective competency and when recognising particular situations.

- The course thematises the competencies required by managers in their roles when navigating a normative discourse between business and civil society.

- The course demonstrates to future managers the methods by which they can develop an ethos which builds on integrity and fundamental obligations according to morals and professional obligations.

- The course is intended to provide future managers with an understanding and successful navigation of the challenges posed by the markets to ethical corporate behaviour and to discuss proposed ethical approaches from the perspective of professional corporate responsibility in an international setting.

1.4 Course requirements and grading

Requirements

Students are required to attend no less than 80% of classes and be prepared for class discussions.

Reading of the required materials and active engagement in class discussions are expected. Always read and think about assigned reading materials before class. Perceptive observations and thoughtful questions contribute equally to a good discussion. Be ready to discuss current events in the economic field, e.g. company strategies. Each student will give a fifteen-minute presentation. There will be two student presentations and small or whole-group discussion at each seminar class.

Grading

Final examination - 70%.
Three multiple choice tests - 15%.
Class participation - 15%.

Part 2: COURSE CONTENT

2.1 Course content and readings by topic

Topic 1: Introduction to the Course. Business ethics today.

Introductions. Explanation of the aims and plan of the course. Clarification of requirements and grading.

Defining Business Ethics. The role of business ethics in companies.

Documents:

BUSINESS ETHICS - GUIDELINES FOR RUSSIAN COMPANIES

https://legacy.trade.gov/goodgovernance/adobe/IDARIDBusEthicsGuidelinesEng.pdf

Required readings:

Ruben Apressyan – Russian Academy of Science

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263030455_Business_Ethics_in_Russia

(1) Business Ethics in Russia, Author(s): Ruben G. ApressyanSource: Journal of Business Ethics, Vol. 16, No. 14, Region: and Country-Related Reports on Business Ethics (Oct., 1997), pp. 1561-1570, Published by: Springer Stable URL:

http://www.jstor.org/stable/2507302 (10 pages)

Yu. G. Chernysheva , G.I. Shepelenko

(2) Analysis of Moral-and-Ethic Business in Russia, European Research Studies Volume XX, Issue 1, 2017
(3)
https://www.ersj.eu/repec/ers/papers/17_1_p30.pdf (8 pages)

Recommended readings:

Business Ethics Get Codified, The Moscow Times, by Khristina Narizhnaya https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2011/02/23/business-ethics-get-codified-a5185

Topic 2: Ethics - a discipline of philosophy

Getting to know key philosophical doctrines of ethics.

The most important thinkers are: Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Karl Marx, David Hume, John Rawls.

Required readings:

(1) Plato's Ethics: An Overview, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2017, 1. - 3.2

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato-ethics/ (3 pages)

(2) Aristotle's Ethics: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2018
   1. - 4.

   https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-ethics/ (4 pages)

(3) Thomas Aquinas: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2014

   8./12.

   Required readings:

   https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aquinas/

   (6 pages)

(4) Kant`s Ethics: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2020

   2./4./5.-5.4

   https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant/

   (5 pages)

(5) Hegel`s Ethics: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2020

   2./2.2/3.1.1-3.2.3

   https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel/

    (8 pages)

(6) Marx`s Ethics: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2020

   2.1-2.5/5.-5.3/7.-7.1/8.-8.1

   https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/marx/

   (10 pages)

(7) Hume`s Ethics: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2018

   4./7./10.-10.3/11.

   https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hume-moral/

    (8 pages)

(8) Rawl`s Ethics: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2021

   2.2/4.-4.6

   https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rawls/

    (6 pages)

Recommended readings:

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Modern Morality and Ancient Ethics, John-Steward Gordon, University of Cologne

https://iep.utm.edu/anci-mod/

Topic 2: Globalization - a driver of processes

Events in one part of the world increasingly affect societies and areas of concerns in other parts of the world

Required readings:

(1) Globalization: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2018

    2./3.

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/globalization/

(5 pages)

Recommended readings:

Globalization - Today, Tomorrow, Publisher: Deng, Kent

Topic 3: Social Equity

This phenomenon is a question for generations and an aim for the future.

Required readings:

(1) Social Equity: Stanford University Press, 2014

Economic Growth and Social Equity in Developing Countries. By Irma Adelman and Cynthia Taft Morris (abstract)

https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review/article/abs/economic-growth-and-social-equity-in-developing-countries-by-irma-adelman-and-cynthia-taft-morris-stanford-calif-stanford-university-press-1973-pp-257-1000/8ECB6773986C005D7126A4BD1CB5EFC0

(2 pages)

Recommended readings:

A blog post by Professor Bernadette McSherry, Foundation Director of the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, University of Melboune

https://socialequity.unimelb.edu.au/stories/what-is-social-equity

Topic 4: Corporate Responsibility (CSR)

CSR is a key term in Business Ethics, which opens up the question of the social responsibilities of companies. Constituent parts are Corporate Citizenship, Stakeholder Management and Corporate Sustainability.

Required readings:

(1) Corporate Social Responsibility: Essay CSR by Saurabh Gaur

2./3.-3.2/8.

https://www.preservearticles.com/business/759-words-essay-on-corporate-social-responsibility/8084

(5 pages)

Recommended readings:

What is CSR?

https://www.unido.org/our-focus/advancing-economic-competitiveness/competitive-trade-capacities-and-corporate-responsibility/corporate-social-responsibility-market-integration/what-csr

Topic 5: Business Ethics

The origins of evil in economic life are considered to be egoism and greed for profit, with the suggested therapies being a consciousness shift and reversal. The focus here is on people`s preferences.

<u>Required readings:</u>

(1) Business Ethics: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2021

2./4./8.

https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-business/

(5 pages)

<u>Recommanded readings:</u>

Business Ethics - Meaning and Ethical Principles in Business, toppr

https://www.toppr.com/guides/business-communication-and-ethics/business-ethics/meaning-and-ethical-principles-in-business/

Topic 6: Compliance

Compliance refers to adherence to statutes, laws and regulations by the company and its employees (internal policies, and guidelines).

<u>Required readings:</u>

(1) Compliance as a Leadership Task - A compendium of tools, methods and innovative approaches, German Institute of Compliance, 2021

12-18

https://www.dico-ev.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Compendium_Complete_Engl.pdf

(7 pages)

<u>Recommanded readings:</u>

Compliance in Multinational Corporations, Emerald Points, Fabian M.

Teichmann, Bruno S. Sergi

https://www.amazon.de/Compliance-Multinational-Corporations-Laundering-Terrorism-ebook/dp/B07CRLMC3Y

Topic 7: Leadership Ethics

Leadership Ethics establishes normative moral foundations for managers dealings with employees. The basic principles of leadership ethics are operationalized, for example, in management principles.

Required readings:

(1) Are You an Ethical Leader?, by Shana Lynch, 2018, Insides by Stanford Business, Graduated School of Stanford Business

https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/are-you-ethical-leader

(5 pages)

Recommended readings:

Leadership Ethics - An Introduction, Terry L. Price, University of Richmond, Cambridge University Press

https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/leadership-ethics/F2364C6AB6BF893FC679CD22D8B26478