

Finance
Course Number: 29:390:331
Course Title: Ethics in Finance

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the ethical issues confronting financial professionals, including extensive coverage of the recent financial crisis, major corporate violations and the very latest developments affecting ethics within the financial world. Instruction includes an overview of the ethical standards in finance, including the primary elements necessary to make proper ethical decisions. The course also covers key definitions, issues, and general theories of business and finance ethics, citing examples of famous corporate and investment management fraud cases and from the recent scandals that have shaken public confidence in Wall Street and the world financial markets. Students leave the course with a better overall understanding of ethical issues confronting financial professionals and how to apply ethical behavior in everyday business practices.

COURSE MATERIALS

- A. There will **not** be any required textbook for this class. I will be using- John R. Boatright, *Ethics in Finance*, third edition.
- B. Required reading, *Liar's Poker*, Michael Lewis
- C. Papers/Articles identified in class (mentioned as homework assignments)

COURSE OUTCOMES

After successful completion of this course the student will:

- Understand the definition of ethics and the importance of ethics in Finance
- Recognize the roles and responsibilities of individuals, corporations, and government regulators on ethics
- Understand concepts associated with business ethics and the impact of business ethics on corporate governance and investment management
- Have a heightened awareness of ethical issues and commitment to norms and values in the area of finance (recognize conflicts of interest, understand fiduciary duty and be able to discuss ethical dilemmas and unethical behaviors.
- Increase skills, knowledge and attitudes that will help with resolution of ethical situations or problems in an appropriate manner

- Understand how firms and industry organizations develop codes of conduct and the impact such codes have on a variety of financial industry activity including corporate governance, member behavior and stakeholder outcomes.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lectures (notes will be made available the night after the class)
- B. Homework- Each student is to read the assignments for each week. Assigned homework reading and analysis explicitly described in class Syllabus and announced in class must be typed and submitted by the due date and time according to the instructions provided.
- C. Class participation (and discussion) is very important in this course where many of the situations which we will examine do not have clear-cut “right or wrong” answers. Your answer may often depend on your background, both spiritually and culturally. Therefore, class participation is essential to enhance your understanding of ethics and their impact on business and particularly in Finance (Corporate and Investment Management). Students will be assessed on class participation and graded on the quality of their answers.
- D. Guest Speakers - TBD

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I do NOT tolerate cheating. Students are responsible for understanding the RU Academic Integrity Policy (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>)

I will strongly enforce this Policy and pursue *all* violations. On all examinations and assignments, students must sign the RU Honor Pledge, which states, “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment.” I will screen all written assignments through *SafeAssign* or *Turnitin*, plagiarism detection services that compare the work against a large database of past work. Don’t let cheating destroy your hard-earned opportunity to learn. See business.rutgers.edu/ai for more details.

ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION POLICY

Expect me to attend all classes, unless otherwise noted. If I am unable to attend class, I will send you an email and post an announcement on Canvas, as soon in advance as possible.

- A. Students are expected to attend all classes. If you are to be absent, report your absence in advance at <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>. If your absence is due to religious observance, a Rutgers-approved activity, illness, or family emergency/death, also send instructor email with full details and supporting documentation.

- B. For weather emergencies, consult the campus home page. If the campus is open, class will be held.
- C. Expect me to arrive on time for each class session. I expect the same of you.
- D. Expect me to prepare properly for each class session. I expect the same of you. Complete all background reading and assignments. You cannot learn if you are not prepared.
- E. Expect me to participate fully in each class session. I expect the same of you. Stay focused and involved. You cannot learn if you are not paying attention.
- F. Expect me to answer your questions and engage in open discussion. I expect the same of you. You will be “cold-called” from time to time.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Course grades are determined as follows:

- Homework (incl. book summary) 40%
- Class Participation (mid and final)* 10%
- Exams 50%

Grades distribution as follows:

- A** 93 – 100% **A-** 89 - 92%
- B+** 86 – 88% **B** 83-85% **B-** 80 -82%
- C+** 77-79% **C** 74-76% **C-** 70-73%
- D** 65-69% **F** < 65%

Class Participation will be reported to students by mid-semester and at the end of the full semester.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Students are responsible for everything that is detailed on Canvas, listed in the syllabus, announced electronically or in class, and presented or discussed in class. Students are responsible for all work missed during an absence. There is **NO LATE WORK** accepted and **NO CREDIT** for **LATE WORK**.

In addition, participation is component of your final grade. You need to be actively engaged in class in order to learn and perform well. You will not succeed by simply showing up. To create an optimal learning environment, please adhere to the following:

- A. Instructors, TAs, students and guest speakers will acknowledge and respect each other and the related comments/discussions.
- B. Arrive on time for each class session.
- C. Remain for the entirety of each class session. Do not pack up early.
- D. Bring your name card and display during every class.
- E. Avoid disruptions during class such as private conversations, use of a cell phone (turn off before class), using a laptop for something other than current classroom work, and sleeping/snoring.
- F. Eating/drinking (non-alcoholic) is permitted, especially if it keeps you awake. Please be discreet.
- G. Be engaged. Participation is required and essential to the quality and depth of learning of the entire class. The more prepared the class, the livelier the discussion. This in turn results in everyone learning and enjoying the experience.
- H. Expect to be “cold-called.” It keeps students engaged and indicates to instructor the level of understanding of materials currently being discussed/presented.

SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need accommodation for a *disability*, obtain a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, provides student-centered and student-inclusive programming in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick ODS phone (848)445-6800 or email dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark ODS phone (973)353-5375 or email ods@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you are *pregnant*, the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Title IX Coordinator phone (848)932-8200 or email jackie.moran@rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance phone (973)353-1906 or email TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you seek *religious accommodations*, the Office of the Dean of Students is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Dean of Students phone (848)932-2300 or email deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark Dean of Students phone (973)353-5063 or email DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you have experienced any form of *gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment*, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides help and support. More information can be found at <http://vpva.rutgers.edu/>.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick incident report link: <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/concern/>. You may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (848)932-1181]

[Rutgers University-Newark incident report link: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?RutgersUniv&layout_id=7 . You may also contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973)353-1906 or email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **not** have a reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)353-1918 or email run.vpva@rutgers.edu]

If students who have experienced a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate, you should submit a request via <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

If you are a military *veteran* or are on active military duty, you can obtain support through the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services. <http://veterans.rutgers.edu/>

If you are in need of *mental health* services, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center: <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>]

[Rutgers Counseling and Psychological Services–New Brunswick: <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/>]

If you are in need of *physical health* services, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers Health Services – Newark: <http://health.newark.rutgers.edu/>]

[Rutgers Health Services – New Brunswick: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>]

If you are in need of *legal* services, please use our readily available services: <http://rusls.rutgers.edu/>

Students experiencing difficulty in courses due to *English as a second language (ESL)* should contact the Program in American Language Studies for supports.

[Rutgers–Newark: PALS@newark.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers–New Brunswick: eslpals@english.rutgers.edu]

If you are in need of additional *academic assistance*, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers University-Newark Learning Center: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc>

[Rutgers University-Newark Writing Center: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>]

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Learning Center: <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>]

[Optional items that many faculty include:

- Students must sign, date, and return a statement declaring that they understand the RU Academic Integrity Policy.

- Students must sign, date, and return a statement declaring that they understand this syllabus.]