COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the multi-disciplinary academic literature on business ethics and requires no previous exposure to business ethics or philosophy. The course begins with leading theories in business ethics, which are then explored through various disciplinary applications (management, accounting, marketing and supply chain). Relevant psychological and sociological influences in decision-making are addressed throughout the course and special attention is paid to conducting empirical research on ethics-oriented topics. Guest speakers provide insight into various topics. By the end of the course, class participants will have developed their own business ethics empirical study or normative analysis which will draw upon an ethical aspect of their discipline.

READINGS

Most required readings will be posted to Canvas or provided in class. ‘Further Readings’ are not required. They provide direction for those who plan to build on a topic for their final paper.

To guide your interpretation of the readings, students should consider the following questions:

Theory Papers: How does the theory relate to research in your discipline? On what points would the scholars agree/disagree? Is the theory persuasive?

Empirical Papers: What is the main research question? Is the question persuasively answered? What was the nature of the research design? Did the authors use the best measures? What would you recommend as a follow-up study?

NORMATIVE ANALYSIS
Choose one empirical article from your discipline (possibly something written by your advisor) and try to identify the implicit normative aspects of the article (roughly 1 page). Does the article seem to suggest that certain individual or firm behaviors are good or bad? Does the article consider implications of research for society?

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**RESEARCH QUESTION & DRAFT OF LITERATURE REVIEW**

In preparation for the final project, students will submit a paper containing a research question and an overview of the literature review for the final project. This assignment is meant to encourage students to start exploring their specific interests, make progress in writing their final papers, and receive feedback early in the writing process.

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**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

*i do NOT tolerate cheating.* Students are responsible for understanding the RU Academic Integrity Policy ([http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/](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](http://business.rutgers.edu/ai) for more details.

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**DISCUSSION LEADER & PARTICIPATION**

While students are expected to participate in all sessions, they will also lead one session alongside a classmate. In the role of discussion leaders, students are expected to compare and contrast articles (not merely provide summaries) and encourage participation and exploration of topics by their classmates. **Effective discussion leaders ask good, clear questions that help spark class discussions.**

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**GRADING POLICY**

10% Normative analysis of an article from underlying disciple ()

10% Research Question & Draft of Literature Review for Final Project ()

20% Discussion Leader (1 session) & Class Participation

60% Final Presentation & Paper (paper is due a week after the final presentation)
COURSE SCHEDULE

Philosophical underpinnings of Business Research


Social Contracts, Stakeholders & Rights


Further Reading:


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**Utilitarianism, Confucianism & Kant**


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**Further Reading:**


Normative vs. Descriptive Theory


Further Readings:


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**Ethical Leadership**

[Guest: ()]


*Administrative Science Quarterly* [GRACE-1]

Kurt, E.D. 2008. What, after all, is leadership? 'Leadership’ and plural action. *The Leadership Quarterly* [GRACE-2]


**Further Reading:**


**Behavioral Ethics Models**


**The Ethical Organization**

*DUE: Normative Analysis*


Further Reading:


**Constructive & Destructive Deviance**


**Further Reading:**


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**Spring Break**

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**Virtue Ethics [Guest ()]**


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**Further Reading:**


Predictors of Un/Ethical Decision Making

*DUE Research Questions & Paper Outline*


*Further Reading:*


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**Artificial Intelligence & New Technologies [Guest: ()]**


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**Further Reading:**

Asaro, P. M. A body to kick, but still no soul to damn: Legal perspectives on robotics.

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**Measuring & Reporting Performance (Financial and Social)**


**Further Reading:**


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**CSR and Stakeholder Reactions [Guest: ()]**


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**Further Reading:**


Hillman, A. J.& Keim, G.D.. 2001. Shareholder Value, stakeholder management, and


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**Final Presentations**

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**Final Papers Due**

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**SUPPORT SERVICES**


[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.
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/](http://vpva.rutgers.edu/).

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick incident report link: [http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/concern/](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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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/](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/](http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/)]

[Rutgers Counseling and Psychological Services–New Brunswick: [http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](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/](http://health.newark.rutgers.edu/)]

[Rutgers Health Services – New Brunswick: [http://health.rutgers.edu/](http://health.rutgers.edu/)]

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If you are in need of **legal** services, please use our readily available services: [http://rusls.rutgers.edu/](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](http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc)

[Rutgers University–Newark Writing Center: http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter](http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter)

[Rutgers University–New Brunswick Learning Center: https://rlc.rutgers.edu/](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.]