

**MGT 305**  
**Ethics and Critical Thinking**

**Professor:** Dr. Mariah Yates  
**Phone:** (office) 615-502-2127  
**Office Hours** By Appointment

**Office:** Grise 207  
**Email:** Mariah.yates@wku.edu

**Catalog Course Description**

Prerequisite: This course is designed to develop skills needed for analyzing a problem or situation to arrive at a hypothesis or conclusion about it after synthesizing or integrating all available information. In critical thinking, all assumptions are open to question, divergent views are sought, and the investigation is not biased in favor of a particular solution.

**Pre or Co requisites:** Junior Standing, MGT 200, or other Legal class

**Course Objectives**

Following completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss several different ethical theories and to articulate important ethical concepts and principles,
2. Relate the ethically significant features of a controversy in business to an ethical theory or principle,
3. Choose (and defend the choice of) a theory or principle for resolving a dispute in business,
4. Demonstrate awareness of the biases and problems inherent in decision making tasks.

**Instruction Materials:**

**Big Red Backpack**

The Big Red Backpack program is the title of WKU's partnership with Barnes & Noble College for their First Day Complete initiative. Big Red Backpack is a course materials delivery program that ensures students have their required course materials on the first day of class and may reduce the costs of materials for many of their courses. Enrollment in the program occurs automatically when students register for classes. Students may opt out of the program each semester, as long as they choose to opt out for all of their classes. Students MUST carefully and completely follow all instructions regarding the Big Red Backpack Program. Those instructions will be provided by:

1. An email to all Topper email addresses from the Big Red Backpack Program one month prior to the start of classes.
2. The Big Red Backpack Program site: <https://www.wku.edu/bigredbackpack/>.

Students should refer to the Big Red Backpack Program site referenced above for opt-out deadlines and any additional details.

Textbook information for our course should be listed as:

**Business Ethics Now - Connect Access by Ghillyer, Andrew**  
**ISBN: 9781260414066**

**Packback Bundle**

**ISBN 13 : 8220127634946**

Additional reading materials, lectures, and supplementary videos will be provided via lecture and on Blackboard.

<u>Assignments</u>	Point equivalent (1000 points)
Smartbook Assignments	100
3 Exams (100 points each)	300
Chapter Quizzes	200
Final Debate Research Paper	100
Content Activities	100
Discussion Activities	100
Final Cumulative Exam	100

#### Basis for Final Grades

90's = A, 80's = B, 70's = C, 60's = D, below 60 = F

or using point equivalency

> 895 = A, > 795 = B, > 695 = C, > 595 = D, below 594 = F

*Students are expected to be familiar with Western Kentucky policy on Academic Honesty. In this class academic dishonesty on an exam or a paper will result in an "F" for the course, and will be reported to the proper officials. Dishonesty on any other exercises may result in punishment ranging from a zero on the assignment to failure of the course – at the discretion of the professor.*

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Exams**

We will be covering 10 weeks of content within this course. Most weeks will correspond with a chapter from our textbook, whereas others will be fully provided on Blackboard. You will have an exam after every 3-4 weeks of new content. With the exception of the Final Cumulative Exam, all other exams will relate to the most recently covered content.

### **Smartbook Assignments:**

These assignments, available through blackboard, are self-paced study questions designed to help you LEARN the material. There will be one set of questions for each chapter.

### **Chapter Quizzes**

These questions will consist of questions that I pose to you, or assignment questions from the textbook. I may ask you to post your answers in the discussion forum, or to submit using an assignment link. These questions will assume you have studied the material provided BEFORE you answer them.

### **Final Debate Research Paper**

For this individual assignment, you will need to look at the debates topic list and choose one side of a debate issue. You will need to research this topic thoroughly and be familiar with all sides of the issue. Someone who presents a convincing argument not only points out the strongest points that are in their favor, but they do an effective job anticipating what critiques the opposing view may present.

Written assignments will be submitted using the Packback platform, as it allows you access to writing assistant tools. This assistance should aid you in submitting high-quality, well-written, grammatically correct work.

### **Activities**

To supplement each of you exams, you will also be asked to complete an activity assignment. These range from research, to reflection, to online simulation activities.

## **Discussions**

We will be using discussion activities on the PackBack platform to allow you all as students to learn and share with one another via an online format.

## **Additional University Information**

### **ADA Accommodations**

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at [sarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:sarc.connect@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

### **Title IX/ Discrimination & Harassment**

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy](#) (#0.2070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

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### **WKU Counseling and Testing Center**

The university experience should be challenging, but not overwhelming. To this end, the WKU Counseling Center provides a variety of services to help strengthen students' capacity to tolerate distress, form healthy relationships, and seek healthy expressions of their ideals and values. If you would like to speak with someone, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159 or use their Here To Help service at <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/heretohelpemail.php>. If you need immediate help, please visit the Counseling Center in 409 Potter Hall or call the 24-hour emergency help line at 270-843-4357.

### **The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services**

The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc).

### **Healthy on the Hill**

All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). In accordance with WKU policy, all students must call the WKU COVID-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019 within 4 hours of testing positive for COVID-19 or being identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive. The COVID Assistance Line is available to answer questions regarding any COVID-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by federal, state, and local public health entities. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. [www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill](http://www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill)

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