

MGT 305
Ethics and Critical Thinking
SUMMER 2015

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Please email me if you need to get in touch with me. If we need to meet we can but do not expect to find me in my Grise office unless we have set up an appointment!!

Catalog Course Description

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.

SUMMER 2015 COURSE DESCRIPTION

As a short, intense exploration of Ethics and Critical Thinking I expect you to find most of the responsibility on learning will fall on you. I will set up the assignments in a way to guide you through the material. This guidance will lead you to reading and reflection....not lectures and Powerpoint slides. IF you are NOT a self-directed learner then you should consider the face to face class!

Prerequisites: Junior Standing, MGT 200, or other introductory legal class

Instruction Materials:

1. Baird, Catherine, Everyday Ethics, Making Hard Choices in a Complex World. 2011, 2nd edition. ISBN 0-9831106-0-3
2. Assigned class readings posted on blackboard
3. Ethics game simulations, and Ethical Lens Inventory assessment, (www.ethicsgame.com) Signed up via the instructions on blackboard.

Students are expected to be familiar with Western Kentucky policy on Academic Honesty. In this class academic dishonesty on an activity or a paper will result in an "F" for the course, and will be reported to the proper officials.

You are expected to do your own work – there are ample opportunities to cheat in an online class, don't make the mistake of thinking that I am not looking carefully at your work.

WKU's Plagiarism Definition: "To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. Once must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism."

Borrowed from <http://www.wku.edu/teaching/booklets/cheating.htm#3>

I have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to cheating, so IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS about how to stay on the “right” side of the policy please contact me.

Grading

Each grade level requires an increasing number of assignments. **You must complete the prior level's activities in addition to the new activities for that level.**

Grade of C

- Fully complete all chapter questions that I specify, this may include Discussion board questions, or assignment questions from the textbook.
- Complete the ELI (see below).
- Complete the Ethics Game activities (Merger Madness and two simulations). Grades of C or better are expected on EG all activities.
- Reflection paper (see below)

Grade of B

- **Complete all “C” activities.**
- Complete the Ethical Position Paper.
- Complete a research paper, with sources, examining one of the issues specified on the topic list found on the assignments page. (The B paper)

Grade of A

- **Complete all "B" and "C" activities** □
- Complete two (2) videoed presentations.

So, it is possible to make a D, or an F....missing assignments, or turning in poor quality assignments will get you there in a big hurry!

Course Pace

All assignments you wish to be considered for a grade must be turned into the Assignments section of Blackboard (or on the discussion board for discussion board responses) by 5:00 p.m. on the dates listed below:

Due Date		Activity
Wednesday	6/10	Chapters 1-3
		Ethical Lens Inventory
Friday	6/12	Chapters 4-6
		Merger Madness 1
Monday	6/15	Chapter 7
Wednesday	6/17	Chapter 8
		Merger Madness 2
Friday	6/19	Chapter 9

Monday	6/22	Chapter 10
		Merger Madness 3
Wednesday	6/24	Chapter 11
		Merger Madness 4 & 5
Friday	6/26	Mysterious Blogger
Monday	6/29	Veiled ID
Tuesday	6/30	Reflection Paper
Thursday	7/2	All materials for Grade of A or B
(Noon)		(Ethical Position Paper, Research Paper,
		and/or Presentations)

Assignment Quality

All assignments must meet quality standards that would be expected by top-level managers. **The professor reserves sole discretion in determining whether a completed assignment meets this standard.** Assignments that do not meet this quality standard do not receive credit including discussion board postings that have little substance. Sub-standard assignments are also eligible for one or two strikes (depending on how poorly written or thought out the assignment is).

For those working toward an A, please note that there is no credit for papers that are less than 2,500 words. Papers must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document, or something else that I can actually open to receive credit.

Strike Policy

(Strikes are bad!)

- 1) Being late on a chapter's assignments, or a case counts as one strike.
- 2) Turning in low quality assignment (on any chapter) counts as one strike.
- 3) Skipping an assignment entirely counts as 2 strikes.
- 4) Failing to complete the ELI will result in 2 strikes.
- 5) Failing to complete one of the Ethics Game activities will result in 3 strikes. Failing to do quality work on the case could result in one, or two strikes!
- 6) Three (3) strikes results in a letter grade deduction. Six (6) strikes will result in a 2 letter grade deduction.

LATE WORK:

There is no late work accepted for the last assignments or the papers - they have to be turned in on time because they have to be graded immediately.

Assessments

Chapter/Course Questions (required for all grades)

These questions will consist of questions that I pose to you. These might be textbook discussion questions, or questions of my own. I may ask you to post your answers in the discussion forum, or to submit using an assignment link.

Case Reflection Paper (required for all grades)

AFTER you have completed all four cases I want you to write a short summary paper documenting what you learned from the process. This paper should reflect on the four lenses you were asked to use for the decisions, the dilemmas themselves, and document any changes in your perspective as a result of the cases. This does not need to be a long paper (1 page? Or so)

The Online EthicsGame (required for all grades)

EthicsGame Ethical Lens Inventory, Merger Madness exercises, and Hot Topics simulations provide you with the opportunity to learn a leading-edge approach to making moral decisions in the business environment. The Decision Model is based on the theory that we all approach an ethical decision from a different perspective (the Four Lenses, and is the same approach covered in your textbook.)

ELI

The first learning tool found on the EthicsGame website is an *Ethical Lens Inventory* (ELI). This self-assessment tool gives you some insight into how you make decisions based upon the four perspectives discussed in the book. Don't forget to click on the links introducing each ethical trait to see the similarities and differences among the lenses. This paper is a major source for content needed for the B paper (position paper).

Merger Madness

For the second EthicsGame activity, you'll be completing five intersecting *Ethics Exercises*, *Merger Madness*, that are designed as interactive thought exercises. You are the CEO of a start-up whose Board has determined that you must accept one of two offers for merger. After the acquisition dance, with whom will you be dancing the last dance?

Merger Madness weaves together ethical dilemmas from six typical business disciplines: contracts (NDA agreements), governance (business model), management (workplace conditions), marketing (paid placement), IT (privacy), and corporate citizenship (culture and copyright). You will be applying your knowledge from the Ethical Lens Inventory into this realistic business problem. You will have the opportunity to repeat each exercise until you get all of the questions correct. Your grade will depend on how carefully you read the questions and how many times you need to repeat the learning sequence.

Hot Topics Simulations

The Hot Topics simulations (Veiled ID and Mysterious Blogger) provide you the opportunity to practice making moral decisions in a business environment. You will be asked to identify the solution to each dilemma using the criteria of all four lenses. A simulation consists of two dilemmas, each with a structured writing assignment and will take approximately 2-2.5 hours to complete.

The cost of the Ethics Games activities is approx. \$65 which will be paid via PayPal (which accepts credit cards). Once you have registered for the inventory and simulations, take time to read and follow the instructions and become familiar with the resources on the navigation bar.

Ethical Position Paper (required for a B and an A)

(Remember you must complete ALL C level assignments and this paper to get a B) As a future/current leader you will face ethical dilemmas, I have no doubt of that. In this paper I want you to take the time to think about, and then document, what criteria you are going to use as you are forced to make a decision in the future situations. More information on this assignment can be found in the Ethical Position Paper folder on the assignments page of blackboard.

Research Paper (The “B” paper, required for a B, and an A)

(Remember you must complete ALL C level assignments the Ethical position Paper, and this paper to get a B)

Information about the “B” Paper can be found on the course assignments page.

Presentations (required for an A)

You must complete two presentations; one as an informative presentation, and one as a persuasive presentation. **These presentations must be recorded and submitted to the instructor. Instructions on various ways to do this will be provided on blackboard. Your topic for each presentation will be the topic on which you wrote the B paper.**

Presentation I (Informative Speaking Assignment- 5 minute minimum; 7 minute maximum)

You will prepare and deliver an informative business presentation on your topic. Develop a well-organized presentation with an appropriate organization pattern, credible sources, and skillful delivery.

General

Requirements:

- A minimum of 2 primary sources should be verbally cited within the presentation. Acceptable sources include: magazines, journals, newspaper articles, expert interviews, etc. Only one credible website will count toward this minimum (this does not include accessing articles through library research databases).
- Typed References page in or APA format
- Visual Aid: A Powerpoint, or Prezi presentation is recommended. This should be submitted. You may reference the slides as you present or assume I am following along as I watch the presentation.

Presentation II (Persuasive Speaking Assignment- 5 minute minimum; 7 minute maximum)

You will prepare and deliver a persuasive business presentation to change or strengthen an audience’s beliefs/attitudes or shape the audience’s behavior based your topics. The presentation can persuade the audience to buy, give, act, think, or feel.

General Requirements:

- A minimum of 2 primary sources should be verbally cited within the presentation. Acceptable sources include: magazines, journals, newspaper articles, expert interviews, etc. Only one credible website will count toward this minimum (this does not include accessing articles through library research databases).
- Typed References page in APA format

- Visual Aid: A Powerpoint, or Prezi presentation is recommended. This should be submitted. You may reference the slides as you present or assume I am following along as I watch the presentation.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments except discussion board postings, and assignments associated with the Ethics Game, must be submitted using the "Assignments" feature in Blackboard. Click on "Assignments" then attach your assignment (Microsoft Word document, PDF, etc.) just as you would an email attachment.
