

**MGT 305**  
**Ethics and Critical Thinking**  
**Winter 2020**

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Office Hours email me, or call me. If we need to meet we can.

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.

**Winter 2020 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 powerpoints.  
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. Assigned class readings/links posted on blackboard
2. Current newspapers or online sources for current events.
3. Ethicsgame website access for this course, see instructions on blackboard

*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.*

***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. One 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>

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 assignment questions that I specify, this may include Discussion board questions, or assignment questions that you answer in an assignment link, each will require reading/reflection.
- Complete the four Ethics Game simulation decisions (see below) showing some improvement from the first two to the second two (a good faith effort, this means I do not expect you to be perfect on the first 2 cases, I know they are a challenge, and the format is new to you.)
- Case reflection paper (see below)

### *Grade of B*

- Complete **all** "C" activities.
- Complete the Ethical Position Paper. (this requires the completion of the ELI)
- Complete a 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 2 (two) videoed presentations.**

**It is possible to make a D, or an F....missing assignments, or turning in poor quality assignments will get you there in a quickly, please refer to the Assignment quality section of the syllabus.**

### **Assignment Quality**

All assignments must meet quality standards that would be expected by 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.

For those working toward a B, please note that there is no credit for papers that are fewer 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 an assignment counts as one strike.
2. Turning in low quality assignment (on any assignment) counts as one strike.
3. Skipping an assignment entirely counts as 2 strikes.
4. Failing to complete one of the Ethics Game Cases results in 3 strikes.
5. Three strikes results in a 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

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***B Paper (required for a B, and an A)***

**(Remember you must complete ALL C level assignments the Position Paper and this paper to get a B)**

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

### ***Course/Assignment Questions (required for all grades)***

These questions will consist of questions that I pose to you. There will be a selection of Internet links/videos or other information that I will expect you to review and then answer discussion questions. I may ask you to post your answers in the discussion forum, or to submit using an assignment link. ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE MATERIAL, and REFLECTING/THINKING is usually extremely obvious –don't do it.

### ***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 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.)

#### ***Hot Topics Simulations***

The Hot Topics simulations 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.

#### ***ELI***

The Ethical Lens Inventory is a 36-question inventory that will provide instant feedback on your preferred ethical lens along with information on the strengths and weaknesses associated with that lens and how they influence the decision making process. The Ethical Lens Inventory will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. (this is not required if you are only going for a "B" or "A", but you did pay for it). More information will be provided about this on blackboard as the course progresses.

The cost of the ELI/2 simulations 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.

### **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.

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