

UCOR 2910-04: Ethical Reasoning in Business (Fall 2020)

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Office hours: via Zoom, by appointment

Summary

Most weeks will involve synchronous meetings using Zoom, some weeks will involve asynchronous work.

1. We'll spend the first few weeks looking at philosophical foundations, the central theoretical approaches to ethics.
2. These philosophical foundations can help us think carefully about the economic dimension of society. We will use the stakeholder approach to business to organize our thinking about economics and business.
3. Students (in groups) will study cases and present them to the class; these examples will help us evaluate the stakeholder approach—is it one we should commit ourselves to?
4. Finally, we'll study moral decision-making and, in particular, the ways it can go wrong in organizations. This is called moral psychology.

There are four short written assignments (15% each, altogether 60% of the final grade), six homework assignments (5% each, altogether 30% of the final grade), and a requirement to keep a journal (10% of the final grade).

The course will require consistent effort and engagement, but it should be fun and interesting. We will address questions that are at the center of political and social debates in the United States and in the election campaigns this fall!

One central theme in this course is that philosophy is about noticing, in this context noticing that we are surrounded by ethical/social claims even in the space of business and economic activity. This conception of philosophy is suggested in Ludwig Wittgenstein's comment, "Philosophy is not a theory but an activity" (*Tractatus*, 4.112).

Please see the Canvas page for more detail and the learning objectives.

Course materials

All readings are available through the Library's electronic databases (links provided on Canvas), on the web (links provided on Canvas). Please see the Canvas page for details. There is nothing to purchase.

Assignments/ readings

- See the separate Module pages on the Canvas site.
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Course policies / Academic resources.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Re. Academic Honesty:

- Seattle University is committed to the principle that academic honesty and integrity are important values in the educational process. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense against the academic community. Acts of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the Seattle University Academic Honesty Policy. The University's policies and procedures with respect to academic honesty are available on the registrar's web site, here: <https://www2.seattleu.edu/registrar/academic-policies/>
- All quoted or paraphrased material, or borrowed ideas, must be cited or noted as such in written papers. This includes online material. "Unintentional" plagiarism is still plagiarism. Consequences of ignoring this standard rule of scholarship are very serious. Also, presenting work from other students as your own is a serious breach of academic honesty. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me, talk to your academic advisor, or see the University's policy—which can be found at the address above.
- Also, requests for grade changes will only be accepted in writing.

Academic Resources

- Library and Learning Commons (<http://www.seattleu.edu/learningcommons/>)
(This includes: Learning Assistance Programs, Research [Library] Services, Writing Center, Math Lab)
- Academic Integrity Tutorial (found on Canvas and SU Online)

Academic Policies on Registrar website (<https://www.seattleu.edu/redhawk-axis/academic-policies/>)

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Grading Grievance Policy
- Professional Conduct Policy (only for those professional programs to which it applies)

Notice for Students Concerning Disabilities

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an 'invisible disability' such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff located in Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only

through this process.

Office of Institutional Equity

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. This prohibition includes sexual misconduct, which encompasses sexual harassment and sexual violence. Seattle U remains committed to providing a safe and equitable learning, living, and working environment. Seattle U offers emergency, medical, and other support resources, as well as assistance with safety and support measures, to community members who have experienced or been impacted by sexual misconduct.

Seattle U requires all faculty and staff to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator if they become aware of any incident of sexual misconduct experienced by a student.

For more information, please visit <https://www.seattleu.edu/equity/>. If you have any questions or concerns, you may also directly contact the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity (email: oiie@seattleu.edu; phone: 206.296.2824).