



AMBROSE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FACULTY OF  
ARTS & SCIENCE

**BUS 210 Business Ethics and Corporate Governance (3)**  
**Winter 2014**  
**Instructor: Sean Quinn**

**Contacting the Instructor**

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**Class Times:** Tuesday/Thursday 8:15 – 9:30 **Office #:** 410-2000 ext 6909  
**Class Location:** Classroom A2133 **Cell #:** 403 803-1012

**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Wednesday 10:00-11:15

Also available by appointment via e-mail

***Hebrews 5:11-14***

*“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a course in applied ethics. As such, it takes concepts, theories, and moral decision procedures found in moral philosophy and endeavours to apply them, in this instance, to a broad range of issues currently encountered in the North American business context. Examples include employee privacy, whistle-blowing, honesty in marketing, creative accounting, insider trading, affirmative action, and exploitive labour practices.

Prerequisites: PH 125

## Course Objectives

### Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and use ethical terminology, concepts, and methodology in the identification and analysis of business issues.
- Construct and articulate a Christian social ethic that is both biblical and relevant
- Understand the context of ethics from a Christian, business, and social perspective
- Students should nurture a personal commitment to justice, fairness, moral conduct, and ethical decision making in the market place.

## Required Texts

Case study ethic book  
The Heart of a Business Ethic

*Supplemental Reading: as assigned/provided by the professor*

Why Business Matters to God, Van Dozer  
Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis  
Christ and Culture, Niebuhr  
A Brief Reader on the Virtues of the Human Heart, Josef Pieper

## Course Requirements and Grade

Instructions for course assignments not outlined in the syllabus will be posted on Moodle throughout the semester. Unless otherwise indicated all assignments are posted on Moodle. Students should include their school ID# only on the assignment cover page. Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in an F (0%) grade. Students must receive a passing grade (min 50%) on all individual assignments in order to pass the course. All individual and group assignments must be submitted for final grade. Assignments will not be accepted after in class discussion. If you do not take part in the in class portion you cannot complete the written portion of the assignment.

### Individual Assignments

	Grade (%)	Due Date
Theology Paper	20%	Feb. 12, 2012
Simulation	5%	March 5, 2012
Case study 4-MAT Reflections	20%	As per Moodle
Critical Contextual Observations	25%	April 9, 2013
Final Exam	15%	April 13, 2013

### Group Assignment

The Heart of a Business Ethic	15%	March 12, 2013
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## **Class Participation**

+/- 10%

The instruction style used for this course will be an interactive approach. For this reason, class participation is a critical component of this course. of the course is based on For example, there are numerous group and individual classroom presentations, case study discussions and/or simulations that take place during the course. All of these situations work best or at all with a minimum number of participants. Due to the interactive nature of this course it is imperative that you attend each class in order for yourself and the other classmates to gain the most from the participative learning and interaction over the semester. If you do not attend a class in which an assignment is due. You will receive an 'F' letter grade for the assignment. If you are required to be away for a class, please notify the professor prior to class time so that any necessary adjustments can be made.

Class participation includes but is not limited to the following items:

- Completing work assignments by due date, required for in class exercises
- Being prepared for and contributing to class discussions and simulations
- Group Presentation Skills and involvement

*Quality is given more weighting than quantity!*

## **LETTER GRADING**

<b>A+</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Grades on Moodle will be calculated using this letter grading

## **Important Notes**

- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to all Ambrose Academic Policies, which are stated in the current Catalogue.
- Assignments will be returned to students within 3 classes of due date.
- Publication manual of the APA American Psychological Association is traditionally used for business for referencing. It is critical that you reference material. You must distinguish between your own ideas and others in order to avoid, even the perception of, plagiarism.

## **Class Schedule**

Posted on Moodle

## **Assignments**

### **Theological Research Paper                      20%                      February 12, 2013**

Each student will complete a 5-page (DS) research paper on one of the following theologians, St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther. Other Theologians can be considered; however the focus must be on one of the theologians assigned. The objective is to become familiar with at least one major figure in the field of Christian ethics through personal research.

In determining the ethic of the theologian the student should consider the following areas should be covered: the figures' socio-historical contexts; their theological traditions; their methodologies in doing ethics; specific ethical challenges confronting them; and their moral visions for church and society. The goal of this paper is to have students evaluate these historical figures and determine how these individuals have impacted the current views in Christian ethics.

### **Simulation Reflection Paper                      5 %                      March 5, 2013**

Distributed through Moodle on day of simulation

### **Critical Contextual Observations                      25%                      April 9, 2013**

Each student will engage in a critical observance of their greater context. To do this, each student is required to choose one (1) article from The Economist magazine 'Leaders' section. (available online) per week over a period of 6 weeks and to engage that article in ethical criticism. No other sources will be considered and only 2012 to current issues can be used. Using a supplied guide (below) the student will evaluate the ethical dilemma discussed in the article. Over the period of the semester, the articles chosen by the student should treat a wide-range of business topics. On the prescribed due date, the student will hand in both an electronic copy of the article evaluated (including the date on which each article appeared) and their 500 word attached response to that article. Total of six articles and responses.

## **Critical Contextual Observation Guide**

1. What assertion or presupposition lies at the heart of the author(s) ethic? That is, what idea is foundational for their ethic? Identify key components.
2. Which form (deontological, teleological, virtue) of ethics does the argument fit? If more than one, which are they? How do they inter-relate?
3. Trace the flow and logic of the author(s) argument. Is the author(s) argument convincing? Why? Why not? Regardless of your responses to the questions immediately preceding, what are the strengths/weaknesses of the argument?
4. What, if any, application can you take away from the article?

### **Case study 4-MAT Reflections**

**20%**

**As per schedule**

Each student will be responsible for providing a written evaluation (500 words) of four business ethics case studies. The case studies will be assigned and submitted throughout the course of the semester. The student will use the 4-MAT criteria posted on Moodle to defend your ethical position in response to the case study. A total of four case studies and responses.

NOTE: A combination of these two assignments is a total of 10 articles and responses. All submissions are through Moodle. These assignments will be graded pass/fail based on completing all entries. The rule is if there is only one posting permitted on a week. If more than two submissions are omitted the student will receive a 'F' (0%) for the assignment. Two missing submissions equal -50%, one missing submission equals -30%.

### **FINAL EXAM**

**15%**

**April 13, 2013**

Each student will write a final exam on the Cardinal Virtues sermons in chapel. The dates for the sermons are Nov 1, 2012, Jan. 10, 2013, March 7, 2013, and April 9, 2013. For each individual sermon the student will complete a 1-page (DS) paper answering the following questions. What was virtue, key message(s), application for business.

PANOPTO link:

<http://vermilion.ambrose.edu/Panopto/Pages/Sessions/List.aspx?folderID=f461cdc1-3154-42f0-b577-3f39a3e144cf>

**Group Assignment**

**15%**

**March 12, 2012**

The Heart of a Business Ethic

Each group will present the key findings of one Lecture from 'The Heart of the Business Ethic' book. With your group (max. 3) indicate to the professor in writing the lecture that has been selected. Once the lecture has been selected no other group can evaluate that lecture. Identify the key points the lecture addresses with regards to business ethics. PPP are not allowed; however, this is a formal 5-minute timed presentation. All group members must present. A 2-page ES must accompany this presentation.