

PHIL 2628 - Business Ethics

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 05, CRN 41128,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Zachary Robbins

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title:
Professor Robbins

Instructor Professional Qualifications:
MA, Philosophy, University of Houston, 2016
BA, Philosophy, Youngstown State University, 2013

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Course Description

2628. Business Ethics. Examines ethical problems in business, ethical responsibilities of business professional, and business as a global institution. Topics include the corporation, at-will employment, unions, technology, privacy, advertising, whistle-blowing, globalization, environmental impact, human rights, just distribution, affirmative action and cultural diversity. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Business Ethics: The Big Picture	Vopat and Tomhave	978-1554814305

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	All readings come from the required textbook.	Students should obtain the text, familiarize themselves with the BlackBoard site, download and print the syllabus and the Moral Theory reading packet, and report any difficulties to the instructor. Begin working on the next module.	Familiarize yourself with Blackboard, the course material, and course navigation. Create a "Student Introductions" Discussions Post
8/31	"On the Disconnect between Business and Professional Ethics," Alan Tomhave and Mark C. Vopat	Introduction to Moral Theory	Watch Course Lectures Discussion Post 1 Quiz 1
9/7	From Utilitarianism, John Stuart Mill From Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, Immanuel Kant	Introduction to Moral Theory	Watch Course Lectures
9/14	From Utilitarianism, John Stuart Mill From Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, Immanuel Kant	Introduction to Moral Theory	Quiz 2 Discussion Post 2



9/21	From Leviathan, Thomas Hobbes From Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle "On the Harmony of Feminist Ethics and Business Ethics," Janet Borgerson	Moral Theories Continued	Watch Course Lectures
9/28	From Leviathan, Thomas Hobbes From Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle "On the Harmony of Feminist Ethics and Business Ethics," Janet Borgerson	Moral Theories Continued	Discussion Post 3 Quiz 3
10/5	From Smith, "The Wealth of Nations" The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels "The Why's of Business Revisited," Ronald F. Duska "The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits," Milton Friedman	Morality & The Nature of Business	Chapter Review Paper (Blackboard) Watch Course Lectures
10/12	From Smith, "The Wealth of Nations" The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels "The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits," Milton Friedman "The Why's of Business Revisited," Ronald F. Duska	Morality & The Nature of Business	Discussion Post 4 Quiz 4
10/19	"Social Responsibility and Economic Efficiency," Kenneth J. Arrow "Noxious Markets," Debra Satz	Ethical Markets	Watch Course Lectures
10/26	"Social Responsibility and Economic Efficiency," Kenneth J. Arrow "Noxious Markets," Debra Satz	Ethical Markets	Quiz 5 Discussion Post 5
11/2	"Is Business Bluffing Ethical?" Albert Z. Carr "The Business of Ethics," Norman Chase Gillespie	Deception in Business	Watch Course Lectures
11/9	"Is Business Bluffing Ethical?" Albert Z. Carr "The Business of Ethics," Norman Chase Gillespie	Deception in Business	Discussion Post 6 Quiz 6
11/16	"Corporate Moral Agency," Peter A. French "Corporate Moral Agency: The Case for Anthropological Bigotry," John R. Danley	Corporate Personhood	Watch Course Lectures Case Study Paper (See Blackboard Assignment)
11/23	"Corporate Moral Agency," Peter A. French "Corporate Moral Agency: The Case for Anthropological Bigotry," John R. Danley	Corporate Personhood	Quiz 7 Discussion Post 7
11/30	"The Fourth Wave: The Ethics of Corporate Downsizing," John Orlando "Decency Means More Than 'Always Low Prices': A Comparison of Costco to Walmart's Sam's Club," Wayne F. Cascio	Ethical Business Practice	Watch Course Lectures
12/7	"The Fourth Wave: The Ethics of Corporate Downsizing," John Orlando "Decency Means More Than 'Always Low Prices': A Comparison of Costco to Walmart's Sam's Club," Wayne F. Cascio	Ethical Business Practice	Extra Credit Discussion Post 8 Quiz 8

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