



SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

MADRID CAMPUS

BLE 215 M1 - BUSINESS ETHICS & LAW

Instructor Information:

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Course Information:

Catalog Description: Historical, ethical, social and governmental influences have helped shape the modern regulatory system in the United States and the European Community. This course is designed on the one hand to illustrate how modern civil legal systems struggle to find and maintain a balance between fundamental moral and ethical precepts on the one hand and workable social and commercial order on the other hand. Law is evaluated in historical and contemporary contexts. Class discussions will compare contemporary ethical issues arising in Spain, the European Community and the United States. On the other hand the course deals with the roles and responsibilities of business and teaches models of ethical decision-making, including diverse cultural worldviews and legal perspectives.

Instructor's Additional Course Description: The course aims to enable students to understand how business and ethics work together and to identify what are the main ethical issues in business. In addition, the course will provide students with an awareness of the implications of the business organizations' behavior on consumers, employers and the society. Lastly, the course will help the students understand the importance of the law in resolving ethical dilemmas.

Credit Hours: 3 credits

This course follows the US Federal Government's Credit Hour definition: "An amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutional established equivalence that reasonably approximates no less than:

- (1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
- (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours."

For full up-to-date statement:

https://cihe.neasc.org/sites/cihe.neasc.org/files/downloads/POLICIES/Pp111_Policy_On_Credits-And-Degrees.pdf

A more detailed breakdown of the student engagement is given below:

Assignments/Activities	Engagement Estimate	Engagement Hours
Class Attendance	3 hours x 15 weeks	45 hours
Course Readings	200-250 pages	20 hours
Other Readings	2 hours	2 hours
Review Class Notes	20 hours	20 hours
Homework	10 Assignments	30 hours
Team Assignment	Written Report	12 hours
Midterm Preparation	5 hours	5 hours
Final Exam Preparation	10 hours	10 hours
Other	Office hours, tutoring, email, etc.	1 hour
TOTAL:		145 engagement hours

Textbook/Course Materials:

M.M. Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings (**latest edition**)

Course Goals & Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will know/understand:	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	How the student will be assessed on these learning outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How business and ethics work together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the main ethical issues in business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class discussions • Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of ethics and its impact on individuals, business or commercial organizations and other such interest groups around the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop critical thinking skills and an appreciation of multiple perspectives on ethical issues, including diverse cultural worldviews and legal perspectives • Identify the unique issues associated with globalization and working with others from different cultures and holding different values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class discussions • Assignments • Oral presentations

Assignments/Exams/Papers/Projects:

Grading will be based on a mid-term exam (30%), final exam (30%), class assignments (writing assignments, oral presentations) (20%) and class attendance and participation (20%). **Class attendance and participation** includes in-class attendance, satisfactory compliance with norms on punctuality, and appropriate interaction during class. Students are expected to arrive prepared to discuss the assigned readings and to actively participate.

Grading/Evaluation:

Midterm exam: 30%

Final exam: 30%

Writing assignments, oral presentations: 20%

Class attendance and Participation: 20%

Course and Classroom Policies:

Students should participate actively. Their questions, and even the doubts a few of them hold about the relevance of law to their futures, fuel my teaching. Materials and instructions relating to the class assignments and the final case presentation will be discussed in class. You are responsible for all of the assigned readings whether or not we actually discuss them in class. The readings and cases will provide the information necessary to participate in class discussions in a meaningful way, to prepare the group project, and to effectively answer exam questions.

A certain etiquette or set of customary rules of courtesy apply to classroom situations, particularly on the college level. Entering the classroom after the instructor's presentation has started can be distracting both to the instructor as well as to other students. Students should refrain from other activity which can be distracting *either to the instructor or to other students*, the classroom is not a place to eat or drink.

Participation/Attendance Policy:

The SUMC Student Handbook states the following:

Once a student is registered for a course, attendance at every meeting of every class is expected, including those held in the first week of the semester. A maximum of two unjustified absences is permitted. Each additional absence will cause the final course grade to be lowered by one-third of a letter grade, i.e., from A to A-; A- to B+; B+ to B, etc.

Excessive absences in a course will have a negative effect on the final grade. When a student is absent, the quality of his or her work in a course will deteriorate since material missed in class sessions can rarely be made up satisfactorily, even though the student remains responsible for that work.

Please note that even when a student has a justified reason for missing class, such as illness, the negative academic impact on learning will be the same as if the absence were for spurious reasons.

In this course, any absence due to illness should be justified by a note from the student's physician or other health professional confirming the day(s) on which the student was unable to attend class.

In the event that a class meeting is unexpectedly cancelled, students will be expected to continue with readings or other assignments as originally scheduled. Any assignments due or class activities (e.g., a quiz, exam or presentation) planned for such a cancelled class are due at the next class meeting unless other instructions are communicated.

Disability Statement:

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in my classroom.

If formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at the main Campus in Boston so that I am notified of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations. Check the ODS web site at www.suffolk.edu/disability for information on accommodations.

Student Resources:

SUMC provides a range of student services, both academic and personal. To learn more about course-related tutorials and academic workshops, refer to the SUMC Student Handbook, Section 2 "Academic Policies and Services". Section 5, "Living in Madrid", contains information on the medical and mental health resources, including an English-speaking therapist, available to you.

Midterm Review:

At midterm, around week 6, you will be given a midterm grade based on your progress to date and performance on assignments, quizzes and midterm exam. Midterm grades of C- or below will be reported to the Madrid Campus Academic Standing Committee, with an explanation of what I believe has contributed to that grade: excessive absences, poor time management or study skills, lack of effort, difficulty with the course material or with writing or language skills, etc. The Academic Standing Committee or I may contact you to suggest strategies for addressing these difficulties. I strongly encourage you to visit me during my office hours so we may discuss how you can be successful in this class.

Academic Misconduct:

www.suffolk.edu/about/mission-history/policies-procedures/academic-misconduct-policy

Suffolk University expects all students to be responsible individuals with high standards of conduct. Students are expected to practice ethical behavior in all learning environments and scenarios, including classrooms and laboratories, internships and practica, and study groups and academic teams. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, use of unauthorized electronic devices, self-plagiarism, fabrication or falsification of data, and other types of academic misconduct are treated as serious offenses that initiate a formal process of inquiry, one that may lead to disciplinary sanctions.

Student work will be thoroughly examined for academic integrity and may be scanned using plagiarism detection software. A faculty member suspecting academic misconduct will contact the student using the Suffolk email address to schedule a meeting and will make all effort to do so within five business days of detecting the incident. During the meeting, the faculty member will present the documentation that led to suspected academic misconduct. Resolution of the incident will be according to the procedures outlined in the SUMC Student Handbook.

Academic Grievances Policy:

www.suffolk.edu/student-life/student-services/student-handbook/university-policies-for-student-cas-sbs/grievances-academics

Course schedule:

The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better student learning.

Week	General topic of lesson	Readings
1	Overview of the discipline, course goals and learning objectives.	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
2	Defining ethics	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
3	Business and ethics: how do they work together	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
4	Business and society: the tough issues of economics, social responsibility and business	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
5	Applying social responsibility and stakeholder theory	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
6	Midterm Exam	
7	Social responsibility and sustainability	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
8	Temptation at work for individual gain	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
9	The organizational behavior factors	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
10	The structural factors: governance, example and leadership	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
11	The industry practices and the legal factors	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
12	The fear and silence factors	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
13	Conflicts between the corporation's ethics and business practices in foreign countries	Jennings, Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings
14 5/5	Final exam	