

**MIDSTATE COLLEGE**  
**411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614**  
**(309) 692-4092 (800) 251-4299**

**Spring 2019**

**Course number and Name:** BUS 315 Business Ethics  
**Credit hours:** 4 quarter hours **Method of Delivery:** eLearning

**Course Description:**

An investigation of the ethical dimensions of business decisions. Students will apply ethical principles and theories to contemporary business issues to develop ethical awareness and managerial decision making skills. Fundamental issues such as legality, responsibility, rights, and justice are examined.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Text(s):** Business Ethics: Ethical Decision Making and Cases, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition

**Author(s):** O.C. Ferrell, John Fraedrich, Linda Ferrell

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Company

Materials needed for this course: computer access

**Topics:**

- 1.) Ethical decision making and ethical leadership
- 2.) The ethical basis of American business
- 3.) The people within an organization
- 4.) Implementing business ethics in a global economy
- 5.) Ethical issues are the institutionalization of business ethics
- 6.) The role of ethical culture and relationships
- 7.) Business ethics in a global economy

**Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1.) interpret the historical significance of morality and ethics and show how they relate to current business ethics decisions.
- 2.) judge sound arguments, discuss ethical dilemmas, and apply moral judgments.
- 3.) differentiate between normative theories of ethics and define ethics terms within a business context.
- 4.) classify the nature of capitalism, highlight the key features of capitalism, and critique the moral dilemmas in a capitalistic society.
- 5.) support the role of the corporation in society and compile a list of corporate social responsibilities.
- 6.) appraise and judge workplace ethics in today's society.
- 7.) formulate moral reasoning and apply to current ethical issues.

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**Midstate Grading Scale:**

90-100	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
0-59	F

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is a basic principle of the College's function. Midstate College students are expected to maintain a high level of academic honesty. Contrary actions may result in penalties such as failure of the assignment(s), a lesser grade on assignment(s), failure of the course and/or suspension from the College. The course instructor will review all submitted documents and supporting evidence in connection to the infraction. The course instructor will also review the student's personal file for other notifications of academic dishonesty before determining the level of action to be applied. The course instructor will complete the Academic Dishonesty Report form to document and describe the incident and actions taken, then kept on file. The student may appeal the decision to administration, whose decision will be final.

The following (**plagiarism, cheating, deception, sabotage, computer misuse and copyright infringement**) are included in the actions Midstate College considers behavior contrary to the academic integrity policy; however, the policy is not limited to these examples. Further discussion of consequences regarding academic dishonesty are addressed in the Student Handbook.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness

requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of Turnitin which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

### **Student Success and Tutoring:**

Contact Student Success: Room 110; (309) 692-4092, ext. 1100;  
[studentsuccess@midstate.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@midstate.edu);

The Office of Student Success offers help in the following areas:

- Tutoring: Tutoring is encouraged for students who are doing their best to complete assignments yet still are experiencing difficulty in this course. Tutoring may be provided by the instructor outside of scheduled class times or through the office of Student Success.
- Writing assignment assistance: This may include learning how to conduct research; using proofreading tools such as Turnitin; outlining a topic; and applying MLA/APA standards.
- Math, accounting, and computer skills (including file management).
- Test-taking techniques.
- Note-taking skills development.
- Study skills development.
- Time management.

**Instructor:** Brian Young  
Room: 232  
Telephone: (309) 692-4092 ext. 3020  
Office hours: 2:30- 3:30 Mondays (please call or email first)

### **Policies and Procedures:**

The course presentation and requirements contain a combination of lecture, reading, discussion, and outside projects. The student will be expected to attend class regularly and to study the material thoroughly in order to be prepared for each class discussion.

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Also, the student will be expected to complete all assignments and readings in a timely manner.

**Participation Requirements:** Get involved! Your success, enjoyment, and learning in this course are closely related to how you engage the material being presented. Participation is initiated by your instructor posting discussion questions during weeks that contain a participation component. You are expected to contribute to the class discussion in a substantive way by posting two substantive notes in the Discussion Forums each week that contains a participation component. When the discussion centers on a lively topic, it is not unusual to read what your classmates are talking about and to post multiple notes.

In contrast to a strict lecture format, a discussion atmosphere is encouraged in the classroom. The student is expected to contribute to the class discussion by sharing his or her own experiences. The instructor suspects that you all have faced some unique workplace challenges either as a supervisor or as an employee. Also, I am sure that you all have opinions on ethics.

Attendance is extremely important! Announcements and changes are made. If you miss a class, contact another student or instructor for information. You are responsible!

**Methods of evaluating student performance:** The objectives will be measured as the student completes a mid-term and final examination, actively participates in class discussions, and completes group work and case studies.

**Examination information:** There will be a mid-term and a final examination.

**Instructor's Grading Scale:** Grades for this class are determined on a weighted average:

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Class participation	25%
Assignments and Project	25%

Week One: Chapter one: The Importance of Business Ethics

Objective: interpret the historical significance of morality and ethics and show how they relate to current business ethics decisions.

Assignment: Read Chapter 1

Week Two: Chapter two: Relationships to Shareholders, Social Responsibilities, and Corporate Governance

Objective: interpret the historical significance of morality and ethics and show how they relate to current business ethics decisions.

Assignment: "Countrywide Financial: The Subprime Meltdown" Complete Case study.

Week Three: Chapter three: Emerging Business Ethics Issues

Objective: support the role of the corporation in society and compile a list of corporate social responsibilities

The Bernard Madoff Case Study

Week Four: Chapter four: The Institutionalization of Business Ethics

Objective: classify the nature of capitalism, highlight the key features of capitalism, and critique the moral dilemmas in a capitalistic society.

Case Eight: Enron Case Study

Week Five: Chapter five: Ethical Decision Making and Ethical Leadership

Objective: judge sound arguments, discuss ethical dilemmas, and apply moral judgments.

Prepare for Midterm Examination

Week Six: Midterm Examination

Week Seven: Chapter six: Individual Factors, Moral Philosophies and Values

Objective: appraise and judge workplace ethics in today's society.

Research assignment to be announced later

Week Eight: Chapter seven: Organizational Factors: the role of Ethical Culture and Relationships

Objective: formulate moral reasoning and apply to current ethical issues.

AIG case study

Week Nine: Chapter eight: Developing an Effective Ethics Program

Objective: differentiate between normative theories of ethics and define ethics terms within a business context

New Belgium Brewing case study

Week Ten: Chapter nine: Implementing and Auditing Ethics programs

Objective: differentiate between normative theories of ethics and define ethics terms within a business context

British Petroleum case study

Week Eleven: Chapter ten: Business Ethics in a Global Economy

Objective: classify the nature of capitalism, highlight the key features of capitalism, and critique the moral dilemmas in a capitalistic society.

Please read this chapter and prepare for the final examination.

Week Twelve: Final Examination

All of the above is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.