

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
G. BRINT RYAN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
MGMT 5710 – Seminar in Business Ethics
Syllabus Section 001 & 026 – Spring 2024
January 16 – March 9
INET Only

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To communicate, you MUST email me directly at the UNT email above or through Canvas. If you do not use your UNT assigned student e-mail address your e-mail may not make it to my inbox. I will contact you via Canvas or your UNT email address, which you are expected to have access to and monitor as a UNT student.

See <http://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect> for questions.

** Please include **MGMT 5710** in the Subject Line for emails**

NOTE: Email is checked on a regular basis Mon-Fri. However, there may be times where it could take me more than 24 hours to respond (e.g. on weekends). If you do not receive an email reply from me after 24 hours on Mon-Fri, please re-send your email. I'll let you know if I'm unavailable due to travel, illness, etc.

OFFICE HOURS: You can expect me to respond with promptness during the week and I can regularly set up meetings within 24 hours of notice. Nights and weekends I may respond, but it shouldn't be expected.

Course Description for MGMT 5710

This course will give students an understanding of the strategic purposes of the firm as both an economic and social entity within society. Topics for the course include: ethics in business and ethical decision making, corporate social responsibility, and stakeholder management. An examination of the organization's relationship to various stakeholders will include shareholders, employees, customers, and the environment. Ethical dilemmas related to each topic are identified and analyzed. Students should consider the course an exercise in applied philosophy, designed to increase critical thinking skills for the purpose of producing more ethical business practices.

Required Materials: This course is an Open Educational Resource and does not require the purchase of any curricular materials such as texts or workbooks. Students will need appropriate technology including a computer, Internet access, and a webcam.

Course Objectives for MGMT 5710

The following are a list of objectives, and their relevant methods of assessment, that students will display to demonstrate a mastery of course material:

- ❖ **Ethics:** students will understand, identify, and apply the following ethical frameworks in the practice of present-day business operations: virtue ethics, deontology or duty-based ethics, consequentialism, & justice.
 - **Understand:** demonstrated by an ability to classify and categorize key characteristics of ethical frameworks and moral agency.
 - **Identify:** demonstrated by an ability to recognize particular frameworks at play in business operations and management decisions.
 - **Apply:** demonstrated by an ability to use and defend selected ethical frameworks in the face of ethical dilemmas in business operations.
- ❖ **Business Operations:** students will understand and analyze the ethical nature of business operations and create/concatenate ethical business practices.
 - **Understand:** demonstrated by an ability to summarize the role of business in present day society with consideration to ethical relationships between government, civil society, and commercial industry.
 - **Understand:** demonstrated by an ability to identify stakeholders in business operations and summarize ethical responsibilities in stakeholder relationships.
 - **Analyze:** demonstrated by an ability to breakdown ethical scenarios and identify key issues, and assess their relative ethical nature in the context of business operations.
 - **Create:** demonstrated by an ability to construct an ethical maxim to serve as a cornerstone for ethical decision-making in business operations.
- ❖ **Sustainability:** students will understand and evaluate critical problems in industrial capitalism relative to long-term sustainability.
 - **Understand:** demonstrated by an ability to summarize various ecological breakdowns relative to resource production and consumption inculcated in industrial capitalism.
 - **Understand:** demonstrated by an ability to compare and explain sustainable and non-sustainable methods in business operations.
 - **Evaluate:** demonstrated by an ability to render judgments about the value of resources and methods used to produce a profit. in relation to enlightened self-interest such as the iron law of responsibility.

Canvas & Technology

- ❖ You can access the course at <https://unt.instructure.com>
- ❖ Login using your EUID and Password
- ❖ Click “MGMT 5710” from the list of courses

Please note that Canvas relies exclusively on electronic technologies for online participation, and technology is not a 100% reliable. Students assume ALL responsibility for the operating condition of personal computers and the functionality of individual Internet connections. Students are expected to be able to navigate the Canvas course site to access information and submit assignments.

Please immediately report ALL Canvas problems to the UNT helpdesk at 940.565.2324. Be sure to ask for a ticket number and then email the ticket number to me along with the report from the helpdesk. Without a ticket number, I can't follow up on the technical issue. Technical difficulties will be resolved as they appear on a case by case basis.

EUID ACCESS AND PASSWORDS:

Enterprise User Identification Numbers (EUID's) and passwords are required by the University of North Texas to access this course. It is the student's responsibility to maintain a current EUID number and password. You may reset your password at <https://ams.unt.edu/acctreq.php>.

Class Structure

This course is taught exclusively online, through Canvas, and it is the student's responsibility to be able to access, and appropriately use, online materials and complete course requirements as assigned in the course schedule provided in the syllabus.

Students are expected to read all the assigned materials on time, per the course calendar in the syllabus. Additional material, which may include video segments or articles may be assigned from time to time. Often, this material will reflect content that is newly identified as relevant to the course, and is therefore not specified on the syllabus.

Discussion posts and exams are made available on a scheduled basis throughout the semester. For the discussion forums to work effectively, you must have read, viewed and thought about all assigned material. A good rule of thumb is to spend as much time analyzing and preparing the material as you do reading it. Exams and quizzes will only be open for small periods of time, which will not change, and are published in the course at the beginning of the semester so students may plan ahead.

Assignments and Grading for the Course

Academic Integrity Quiz	5
Content Quizzes – 7 @ 35 points each	245
Discussion Boards – 3 @ 50 points each	150
Ethical Case Analysis – 3 @ 100 points each	300
CSR Presentation	100
Final Exam	200
Total Points Available for the Course	1000

Grades will be based on the points earned during the course according to this scale:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. = 900 – 1000 points | D. = 600 – 699.9 points |
| B. = 800 – 899.9 points | F. = Below 600 points |
| C. = 700 – 799.9 points | |

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARIES & DESCRIPTIONS

Academic Integrity Quiz (1 @ 5 points)

Participating in life with integrity is crucial to the successful operation of both business and society. It is no different for one's educational endeavors. The University has established a policy for [Student Academic Integrity 06.003](#) that has been summarized in an introductory module on Canvas. The module ends with a quiz, which is a low-cost opportunity to familiarize yourself with the expectations, processes, and consequences surrounding academic integrity for the course.

Content Quizzes (7 @ 35 points each)

Students will take short quizzes (6-10 questions) that cover key concepts and themes from the reading each week. These quizzes are relatively low stake opportunities to focus on thematic takeaways from readings in business ethics. These will be high level questions about basic concepts, themes, and arguments presented in the text. The quizzes are timed but are considered open-note / open-text. Students are expected to participate in these quizzes independent of each other, using only the material they've prepared from reading the texts.

Discussion Boards (3 @ 50 points each)

Students will participate in a discussion board with peers where they are tasked to weigh in on popular topics in business ethics, current events, or material related to the content of the week's curriculum. In these discussions, students are prompted to take up a position on an issue and provide a rationale. Students are also prompted to respond to peers in respectful and open dialogue on the issue.

Mini-Case Analyses (3 @ 100 points each)

Students will read and review a case from the business world that connects to the course content for that week. Students will be tasked to apply an analysis of the course material, ethical frameworks, or theories of business practice to the case at hand. Rather than offering a personal opinion, students will be assessed on their ability to critically and analytically apply course material to a scenario in the business world.

CSR Presentation (100 points)

Students will record a presentation for the class on the need for reform in the business world toward greater corporate social responsibility. Topics may include environmental, social, or operational concerns. The presentations will be in the form of a Pecha Kucha, a brief, highly structured presentation format. This is an opportunity for students to use the material in the class to personally advocate for change in modern business practices in an area important to them. There are several models and a diversity of ideas around CSR in our text for students to pull from when selecting an area in which to advocate for change.

Final Exam (200 points)

The final exam will be a mix of multiple choice, true-false, matching, and open-ended short answer questions. Unlike the Content Quizzes, the final exam does not focus on recall of facts from course material, but more application of course material. The final exam will be heavily scenario-based and task students to identify, apply, and understand course material in the context of modern business practices. It requires the use of the Respondus LockDown Browser w/ webcam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>) academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. All violations of the Student Academic Integrity policy will be reported. Usage of cell phones, iPhones, cameras, or any other electronic device is not allowed during a test; nor is talking to other students, soliciting or giving help. Copying, photographing, or disseminating the questions in any form is prohibited. Remember, the exam questions are randomized so you will NOT see the same questions in the same order as your classmates.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

Act professionally and respectful at all times. Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class, or other students' opportunity to learn, is unacceptable, disruptive, and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be referred to the Dean of Students to review whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://conduct.unt.edu>. Any person who believes that a violation of University policy has been committed by a student can go to <https://report.unt.edu> and report the allegation.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

This semester, UNT will administer course evaluations online (the "SPOT" – Student Evaluation of Teaching). The evaluations are used to evaluate faculty performance and provide guidance on what can be improved (also tell us what you like!). These are very important to me as you are the reason I'm here. I truly value your feedback and very much appreciate you taking the time to complete the evaluations which will be administered towards the end of the semester. You will be notified on Canvas and via your UNT email once the evaluations open.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION:

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided to me within the first week of the semester. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the ODA website at <http://disability.unt.edu>.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:

I'm all about it. In whatever shape, form, method, or modality it presents itself. All are welcomed with open arms. Bring all that is you to your participation in the course and we'll make room. There is space here for you to excel, as you. Behavior that is unjustly discriminatory, hostile, or dehumanizes others is not welcome. We'll work together to get this right.

DUE DATES ON ASSIGNMENTS:

Due dates are published well in advance and you are encouraged to submit early to avoid technical difficulties, which are your responsibility to resolve and not a justification for late work. If you have a legitimate reason under University policy you should (a) contact your professor in advance to provide notification/verification or (b) work with the Dean of Students Office after the fact to provide your faculty with verification. Late submissions, which are not excused by University policy, will be subject to 25% reduction for the first twenty-fours, then 50% thereafter. If you are experiencing any symptoms of [COVID-19](#) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or ask SHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. Contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. Then let me know if it is impacting your assignment completion.

DROPPING THE COURSE:

If you decide it is necessary to drop the course, adhere to the Academic Calendar on the Registrar's website: <http://www.unt.edu/catalog/>, there you will find the last day for a student to drop a course. With regards to dropping the course, you will need to go to the following link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class> and click on Request to Drop Class form. For assistance contact the Registrar.

EMERGENCY ALERTS:

The University of North Texas has an emergency Notification System, Eagle Alert (<https://www.unt.edu/eaglealert/>), which has the capability of calling or text messaging emergency notices. As a student, you may also register with Eagle Connect Alert to receive notification of any warnings or campus closings that are announced. Instructions for enrollment can be found at my.unt.edu. The University's radio station, KNTU 88.1 FM and website <http://www.unt.edu>, will provide updated information during an emergency situation.

COLLEGE EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES:

Severe Weather: In the event of severe weather, all building occupants should immediately seek shelter in the designated shelter-in-place area in the building. If unable to safely move to the designated shelter-in-place area, seek shelter in a windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building. All building occupants should take shelter in rooms 055, 077, 090, and the restrooms on the basement level. In rooms 170, 155, and the restrooms on the first floor.

Bomb Threat/Fire: In the event of a bomb threat or fire in the building, all building occupants should immediately evacuate the building using the nearest exit. Once outside, proceed to the designated assembly area. If unable to safely move to the designated assembly area, contact one or more members of your department or unit to let them know you are safe and inform them of your whereabouts.

Persons with mobility impairments who are unable to safely exit the building should move to a designated area of refuge and await assistance from emergency responders. All building occupants should immediately evacuate the building and proceed to the south side of Crumley Hall in the grassy area, west of parking lot 24.

Start Date	Subject Matter & Reading List	*Assignments & Due Dates
Week 1 Jan 16	<i>Ethical Theory and Decision-Making</i> Read all content posted to the Week 1 Module	<i>Content Quiz (35 points) – Jan. 21</i> <i>Discussion Board (50 points) – Jan. 21</i>
Week 2 Jan 22	<i>Motives and Markets</i> Read all content posted to the Week 2 Module	<i>Content Quiz (35 points) – Jan. 28</i> <i>Ethical Case Analysis (100 points) – Jan. 28</i>
Week 3 Jan 29	<i>Stakeholder Management Principles</i> Read all content posted to the Week 3 Module	<i>Content Quiz (35 points) – Feb. 4</i> <i>Discussion Board (50 points) – Feb. 4</i>
Week 4 Feb 5	<i>Ethical Workplace Environments</i> Read all content posted to the Week 4 Module	<i>Content Quiz (35 points) – Feb. 11</i> <i>CSR Presentation (50 points) – Feb. 11</i>
Week 5 Feb 12	<i>Moral Agency and the Business of Politics</i> Read all content posted to the Week 5 Module	<i>Content Quiz (35 points) – Feb. 18</i> <i>Ethical Case Analysis (100 points) – Feb. 18</i>
Week 6 Feb 19	<i>Environmental Ethics</i> Read all content posted to the Week 6 Module	<i>Content Quiz (35 points) – Feb. 25</i> <i>Discussion Board (50 points) – Feb. 25</i>
Week 7 Feb 26	<i>Globalization</i> Read all content posted to the Week 7 Module	<i>Content Quiz (35 points) – Mar. 3</i> <i>Ethical Case Analysis (100 points) – Mar. 3</i>
Week 8 Mar 4	Review and Exam Preparation	Final Exam (200 points) – Mar. 8 & 9