

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913–3649
479–788–7000

General Syllabus

MGMT 31343 Social Responsibility and Ethics in Business

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites: Admission to the College of Business or consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Introduces methods used in business case analysis, issues entailed in business firms' responsibilities to stakeholders, and frameworks used to identify ethical dilemmas and make appropriate decisions.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Identify stakeholders' roles in business ethics.
2. Define and recognize business ethical issues.
3. Distinguish between the voluntary and mandated boundaries of ethical conduct in business.
4. Employ a comprehensive, systematic framework for ethical decision-making in business.
5. Assess how moral philosophies and values influence individual and group ethical decision making in business.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills - Students will use critical thinking skills to identify ethical problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis in a business context.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to the intended audience.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Ethically responsible decision making
- B. Ethical framework of utilitarianism
- C. Principle-based or rights-based framework of ethics
- D. The concept of human rights and how they are relevant to business
- E. Distinguishing moral rights from legal rights
- F. Virtue-based framework for thinking about ethical character
- G. How corporate culture impacts ethical decision making
- H. Models of corporate social responsibility
- I. Due process in the workplace
- J. Issues of health and safety in the workplace
- K. Issues of privacy in the workplace
- L. Ethical challenges posed by technology use
- M. Key concerns of ethical analysis of marketing issues
- N. Market-based and regulatory-based environmental policies
- O. The role of accountants and other professionals as “gatekeepers”
- P. How conflicts of interest can arise for business professionals
- Q. The “control environment” and the means by which ethics and culture can impact that environment
- R. Insider trading and its potential for unethical behavior