

**Syllabus**  
**BA 323 Business ethics**  
Cologne Business Program

**Instructor**

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**Course description**

This course examines the nature of value judgments their historical origins and philosophical assumptions and their application to business and corporate problems. The course highlights the pitfalls in practical ethics which future managers are likely to face, and the need to design organizations so as to promote ethical behavior. It is taught from a multi-national perspective via case discussions, with background readings in philosophical, legal, and organizational perspectives.

**Texts**

Beauchamp, Tom and Bowie, Norman (ed.), *Ethical Theory and Business* (7<sup>th</sup> edition), Prentice Hall, 2004.

William K. Frankena, *Ethics* (Second Edition) Pearson Education, 1988, ISBN: 0132904780

**Course goals**

1. Understand the nature of value judgments
2. Understand how ethical systems vary between cultures
3. Understand sources of unintended moral failure
4. Be able to apply ethical theories to practical management problems
5. Understand the influence of organizational design on ethical behavior
6. Be able to communicate logical ethical arguments in writing and orally.

**Course Structure**

The first part of the course consists of an introduction to moral philosophy from the perspective of the major Western and Eastern traditions. These discussions will be accompanied by short case examples to help students become used to applying theoretical perspectives to practical issues.

The second part of the course examines a series of broad issues drawn from business. For each of these issues, there will be several specific cases presented. Students will be expected to apply the ethical theories covered in part one of the course to these cases and analyze both the practical applicability of the theories and the conflicts between them in dealing with real-world issues.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on written and oral case presentations. Oral presentations will be made in class; the first presenter for each case will be selected randomly. All case write-ups are due at the end of class the day the case is discussed. The first textbook (*Ethical Theory and Business*) discusses how to write a case analysis.

Written case analyses must be in clear and correct formal English, be well-organized, be well-reasoned and demonstrate understanding of both the theoretical and practical applications of the problem under discussion. Unsatisfactory case write-ups which are turned in on time may be rewritten and resubmitted for full credit.

**Schedule (version 0.9) Subject to change**

**B= Beauchamp & Bowie; F=Frankena; R=Readings (on web)**

Week 1	Introduction to the course; The nature of ethics The nature of ethics; ethics of conduct: egoism	B-1; F-1 F-2
Week 2	The ethics of virtue: Aristotle The ethics of conduct: Divine command and natural law theory Usury, Aquinas case	R-1
Week 3	The ethics of virtue: religious and non-Western The ethics of conduct: deontology and consequentialism Interest case	R-2 F-3
Week 4	The ethics of conduct: justice and ethical relativism President's salary case The ethics of conduct: the good life	B-10, F-3, F-6; R-3 F-5
Week 5	The Purpose of the Corporation The Purpose of the Corporation	readings Chapter 2 Cases 2-2, 2-3
Week 6	Accountability and responsibility Accountability and responsibility	Readings Chapter 3 Cases 3-1, 3-2
Week 7	Risk Risk	Cases 4-1, 4-2 Case 4-3, 4-4, 4-6
Week 8	Employees Employees	Cases 5-1, 5-2 Cases 5-1, 5-3
Week 9	Ethics in a multicultural world Ethics in a multicultural world	Cases Dalits 6-2, 6-3 Cases 6-7, 6-8
Week 10	Ethics in a multicultural world Ethics in a multicultural world	Cases 9-1, 9-3 German cases
Week 11	IT and Intellectual Property Truth & Business Truth and Business	Cases 8-2, 8-4 Cases 7-1, 7-3, 7-4 Cases 7-6, 7-7