

**Coastal Carolina University
College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies**

**Spring 2015
Syllabus & Tentative Schedule**

Course: Business Ethics, PHIL 318, Section E1

Credit hours: 3

Time and Location: Tuesday, Thursday 04:30–05:45 p.m., Edwards Humanities & Fine Arts, Room 169

Instructor: Patrick Beach, Ph.D. (please call me “Dr. Beach” or “Professor Beach”)

Email: pbeach@coastal.edu

Office: 124 Sands Hall

Telephone 843-349-4049 (I am far more reliably on email)

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 1:00–2:30 p.m., Wednesdays 4–6:30, and by appointment

Course Website: moodle.coastal.edu

Communication Policy: I will respond to emails within 24 hours (but usually sooner). The same is expected of students.

Required Texts

- Joanne B. Ciulla, Clancy Martin, and Robert C. Solomon. *Honest Work: A Business Ethics Reader*. third. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014
- Supplemental materials will be posted on or linked from Moodle.

Course Description

Ethical problems in business, application to business situations of philosophical theories of individual, corporate and governmental rights and responsibilities.

Course Objectives

Students who are successful in the course will be able to ...

1. Summarize and appraise philosophical texts.
2. Explain ideas clearly and precisely in well-organized prose.
3. Reconstruct and evaluate arguments. Particular attention ought to be paid to their internal structure (premises vs. the conclusions they aim to support).
4. Demonstrate mastery of and appraise central philosophical concerns in business, application to business situations of philosophical theories of individual, corporate and governmental rights and responsibilities.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Use basic philosophical terms and concepts accurately.
2. Apply basic rules of formal and informal reasoning.
3. Describe central philosophical positions pertaining to the problems addressed in the course.
4. Explain the significance of central philosophical problems.
5. Identify and evaluate philosophical arguments and objections.
6. Formulate questions, arguments and objections concerning the philosophical issues addressed in the course.
7. Identify and evaluate central philosophical issues in case studies connected to business ethics.

Course Requirements

Work Load Estimates: In a typical week, you should expect to devote about 6–10 hours to the reading and writing for this course. This is time beyond class attendance. Sometimes the readings are long and sometimes they are quite difficult. You will need to invest time in preparing for class.

Means of Assessment: (A) Two exams, (B) one case study group presentation, and (C) one case study analysis paper (4-6 pages). The exams are in-class (closed book and closed notes). Note: not everything that you turn in will be graded.

Extra Credit: I offer very little in terms of extra credit (maybe one or two small things). All extra credit is offered to everyone equally, so if at the end of the semester your grade is

coming up short, there's nothing that can be done about that. So take your grades seriously from day one of this course.

Attendance Policy: Students are obligated to attend class regularly. Absences, excused or not, do not absolve students from the responsibility of completing all assigned work promptly. Students who miss assignments, announced quizzes, or other course work obligations due to excused absences will be allowed to make up the work if possible (in-class work is often not possible to make up). If your absence is unexcused, you cannot make up the missed work.

I count anyone as late who misses more than 10 minutes of class (being late or leaving early). Being late twice converts to one absence. I also count anyone as absent who falls asleep in my class or who misses more than 20 minutes of class.

Absences will be excused for documented cases of:

1. incapacitating illness,
2. official representation of the University (excuses for official representation of the University should be obtained from the official supervising the activity),
3. death of a close relative, and
4. religious holidays.

Please note that I hold myself to the same standards (missing only for official professional reasons, incapacitating illness, death of a close relative, etc.). There is at least one class that I will miss for professional reasons.

Students who miss more than 25% of the regularly scheduled class meetings with unexcused absences will fail the course.

See <http://www.coastal.edu/policies/pdf/acad-125classattendance.pdf> for Coastal's official attendance policy.

Grading Proportions

Midterm exam 25%
Final exams: 25%
Group presentation: 20%
Case study analysis paper: 30%

Grading Scale

90–100% = A
86–89% = B+
80–85% = B

76–79% = C+
70–75% = C
66–69% = D+
60–65% = D
0–59% = F

Advice

- Read the material carefully and take reading notes as you go along. Mark up the text in meaningful ways as you read. While I sometimes will give some guidance on the material before you read it, some of it will still be difficult. Be prepared to read and re-read the material. Philosophy *cannot* be skimmed.
- Take good lecture notes and rewrite them as soon as you can after class. This will aid you greatly in understanding the material.
- Organize study/discussion groups. One of the best ways to understand philosophy is to talk about it.
- Look up terms you don't understand.
- Write summaries of the readings, and write up what you think are the muddiest points in your understanding of the material.
- Get help with any writing problems that you know you have. I can help you and the writing center can help you. I expect college-level reading and writing skills.
- Come to office hours and we can talk about the material. I am the most informed person you can talk to about this class. Or set up discussion groups and invite me to participate. Warning: my time becomes very tight before exams.
- Philosophy is a *content-laden* discipline. We will pay attention to a lot of fine-grained details. So while looking at the big picture helps, much of what we will attend to (and you will be responsible for) is at the micro level. The devil is in the details.
- Students may vary in their abilities to read and write at the college level. You can expect to acquire these abilities only if you honor all course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of you as a student.

Policies

- Students who cheat or plagiarize will fail the course. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for details. <http://www.coastal.edu/conduct/documents/codeofconduct.pdf>

- Students are expected to follow Coastal Carolina University's community standards: "Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust."
- Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Accessibility and Disability Services office. (A fairly complete list of support services is on the course Moodle page under the link "Student Support".)
- Respectful, professional, and civil conduct is the expected norm for the class.
- You are expected to check your CCU email daily and respond to any email that I send you (seeking a response) within 24 hours. You do not need to respond to informative emails from me. Any emails sent to me should be written to a professional standard (see "How to Email Your Professor" on the course Moodle site).
- The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, or to ensure better student learning.
- This class is technology free. That is, use of cell phones, tablets, and laptops is forbidden (except for those whose documented disability requires an electronic accommodation). Bring your reading to class every day (well read and marked up). Take copious lecture notes with pen or pencil and paper. As a courtesy, if you would like to record classes, please inform me.

Tentative Schedule

Last Updated: July 17, 2016
(Subject to Revision)

Note: Readings are in Ciulla, Martin, and Solomon, *Honest Work: A Business Ethics Reader, Third Edition* or are posted as PDFs on Moodle unless otherwise noted.

Week / Week of	Topics, Readings, & Tests	Assigned Work
1	Introduction	
Jan. 12	Audi, "Some Approaches to Determining Ethical Obligations" Beach, "Logic and Truth" (moodle)	
2	Chapter 1: On the Job Readings (pp. 1-30)	
3	Chapter 1: On the Job	
Jan. 26	Cases (pp. 30-38)	
4	Chapter 2: Honesty and Trust	
Feb. 2	Readings	
5	Chapter 2: Honesty and Trust	
Feb. 9	Cases	
6	Chapter 3: The Good Life	
Feb. 16	Readings	
7	Chapter 3: The Good Life	
Feb. 23	Cases	
8	Midterm: March 3	March 5: Mid-term grades due by 5 p.m.
Mar. 2	Group Project Introduction	
	Spring Break	
Mar. 9		

continued on next page

Week / Week of	Topics, Readings, & Tests	Assigned Work
9	Chapter 5: Fairness and Justice	
Mar. 16	Readings	
10	Chapter 5: Fairness and Justice	
Mar. 23	Cases	
11	Chapter 6: Shareholder & Stakeholder Theory	
Mar. 30	Readings	
12	Chapter 6: Shareholder & Stakeholder Theory	
Apr. 6	Cases	
13	Group Presentations—Team 1	Reading Quiz over CMS, pp. 410–422
Apr. 13	Group Presentations—Team 2	Reading Quiz over CMS, pp. 290–300
14	Group Presentations—Team 3	Reading Quiz over CMS, pp. 540–553
Apr. 20	Group Presentations—Team 4	Reading Quiz over CMS, pp. 337–347
15	Group Presentations—Team 5	Reading Quiz over CMS, pp. 660–673
Apr. 27	Group Presentations—Team 6	Reading Quiz over CMS, pp. 363–373
		April 29: Last day of classes
		April 30: Study day
		Case Study Paper Due: May 1
Final		
May 7	4–6 p.m.	