Professional & Business Ethics
PHIL 215 / ARBUS 202
Lec002
Fall 2013

Instructor
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Meeting Time
T/TH 4-5:20 AL113

Instructor’s Office Hours
Tuesday 3:00 - 4:00 pm
HH321

Required Texts and Gadgets
- iClicker (available at the campus bookstore)

Course Description
This course is an introduction to professional and business ethics. Now you may be thinking to yourself, What does business have to do with ethics? Business is business, ethics is ethics...and as long as we’re not breaking the law we can do whatever we want, right? Wrong. We are economic animals who trade with each other in the hopes of making ourselves better off. And insofar as our narrowly self-interested behaviour affects others, what we do falls under the purview of ethics.

Ethics, broadly speaking, is the branch of philosophy which seeks to analyze principles of conduct which govern human activity. In the context of this course we will specifically look at principles of conduct which govern our economic activity. We will begin the course by looking at what moral philosophers throughout the ages had to say about economics. We will then focus on issues that we face today: Am I really my brother’s keeper? Is money really the root of all evil? Are we consuming too much? Will the poor always be with us? Can Markets solve an environmental problem? among other issues.
The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the means to examine and assess ethical, social, and political issues in a clear and concise way.

**Learning Outcomes**
By the end of the course you will be able to:
- Identify and contrast different types of theories
- Articulate the connection between ethics and business
- Agree to the importance of ethical reasoning.
- Explain the different conceptions of political freedom.
- Articulate the connection between political freedom and economic freedom
- Recognize how social action problems and the free-rider problem arises.
- Formulate personal beliefs about the role of the state in economic affairs
- Contrast the behaviors of homo economicus and homo actualis
- Recognize how economic incentives affect human behaviour
- Defend their views about political freedom and taxation
- Explain what moral hazard is
- Recognize situations in which moral hazard can arise.
- Articulate the conditions under which it is rational to pool risk.
- Revise attitudes towards moral hazard and pooling risk.
- Propose workable market solutions to environmental problems like pollution
- Recognize the sharp distinction between theoretical solutions and practical solutions to environmental problems like pollution
- Be aware of the ideological roots of proposed solutions to environmental problems like pollution.
- Analyze market forces that affect prices
- Recognize cognitive biases that influence our assessment of other people’s economic behaviour.
- Adjust how assessments are made of peoples’ motives and intentions.
- Explain what fiduciary duties are.

**Assessments**
The course grade is based on four (4) components
- Minor essays: 30% (2 x 15% each)
- Midterm: 35%
- Final Project: 20%
- Attendance & Participation: 15%
Detailed explanations of course requirements and corresponding due-dates are in Learn.

**Graphical Outline and Reading Schedule**
A separate PDF file containing a graphical outline of the course and the reading schedule is in Learn.
Course Technology
All assignments are submitted through Learn. Learn records the time of all submissions, as well as other activities of interest. Its time-stamp is taken as definitive for the purposes of this course. Allow a few minutes of extra time for network delays and other technical frustrations to make sure that your assignments are received before the submission deadline. Technical support for Learn is provided by Information Services and Technology (learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca).

iClickers
Clickers are used to record attendance, encourage class participation and most importantly to gauge (in real time) student understanding. Clickers do not provide complete anonymity. While none of your classmates will know how you responded to a clicker poll, your instructor has access to that information. If you are having trouble with your Clicker, please speak to me or the TA (if there is one).

E-mail
If you send me an e-mail message through Learn or the campus e-mail system, I will make every effort to respond to you within 24 hours. This is the ideal, of course. When things get busy, expect a longer turn-around.

Electronic Submissions
All assessments are to be submitted electronically via Learn. Internet problems are not grounds for extensions.

Alternative Assignment Deadlines
The assignment deadlines for this course are firm. If there are extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from completing an assignment as scheduled, you may provide an explanation and propose an alternate due date using the Alternative Deadline Request Form on the course page in Learn. Note that submitting a request does not mean it will be granted. Work that is submitted late, for which no extension has been granted, will be docked at 50% per day.

Informal Grade Appeals
All essays will be marked against a Marking Rubric, which can be found on the content page in Learn. Markers and instructors can make mistakes. If you believe that an error has been made in the marking of your assignment, read and follow the Appeals Flowchart found on the content page in Learn.

Cross-Listed Courses
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and
responsibility.

**Discipline**
A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71–Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71–Student Discipline, [Policy 71–Student Discipline](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm).

**Grievance**
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70–Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [Policy 70–Student Petitions and Grievances](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm).

**Appeals**
A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70–Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71–Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72–Student Appeals, [Policy 72–Student Appeals](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

**Academic Integrity Website (Arts)**
[Academic Integrity Website (Arts)](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (University)**
[Academic Integrity Office (University)](http://uwwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

**Access Ability Services**
Access Ability Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**
This Course Syllabus is subject to change, given sufficient notice. It is your responsibility to stay apprised of any and all changes.