

# **Phil. 430(3): Ethics and Society (for PCBE Students)**

Tues./Thurs. 12:40-2:00  
New Hampshire Hall 208  
Spring 2016

## **Instructor Information**

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TAs:

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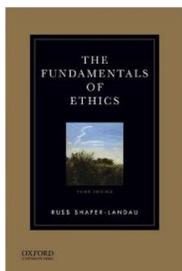
## **Description**

This class introduces you to some of the central issues in business ethics. We will begin by discussing the moral theories that are often appealed to in business ethics. After that, we will discuss several hot topics in business ethics: corporate social responsibility, whistleblowing, sweatshops, child labor, factory farming, hiring ethics, affirmative action, sales ethics, etc. We will also discuss many classic business ethics cases. While the first half of the course is somewhat theoretically oriented, the latter half has a practical component: we will discuss how to voice your values in the workplace when you see that they are being violated. We will look at some real-life cases of values conflicts and talk about how to navigate them. So, by the end of the course, you will not only have a good understanding of the theories, topics, and cases that business ethicists are discussing today, but you will also be better equipped to speak your mind in the workplace when you know what is right.

There are no prerequisites for this course. It satisfies the Discovery Humanities (HUMA) Category and Gen. Ed. Category 8. It satisfies the PCBE ethics requirement.

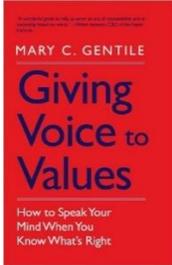
## **Books**

There is one textbook that you need to buy: Russ Shafer-Landau's *The Fundamentals of Ethics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Oxford University Press, 2014). It looks like this:



You can buy the textbook at the campus book store and at the Durham Book Exchange. New copies are about \$30.

We will also be reading Mary Gentile's book, *Giving Voice to Values*, which looks like this:



**Fortunately, this book is available on JSTOR, so there is no need to buy it.**

There will be other required readings for the course that don't appear in either of these books. I will put them on Canvas.

### **Course Requirements**

1. *Three Tests (16%, 22%, 22%)*

The first test is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 21

The second test is tentatively scheduled for Mar. 28

The third test is tentatively scheduled for Apr. 27

The tests will be a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions.

This Is Important:

*If you miss an exam, you will not be permitted to make it up, unless you have a legitimate, documented excuse (such as an illness, a death in the family, or a conflicting religious obligation). If you need to miss an exam, you must let me know in advance.*

2. *Giving Voice to Values Project (19%)*

This project will be based on the *Giving Voice to Values* book we will read later in the semester. The project will be a compilation of some short writing assignments, an introspective survey, and some case analyses. I'll talk more about this project later in the semester. It will be due during Finals week.

3. *Philosophy Team Activities (7%)*

At the beginning of the semester, I will divide the class into philosophy teams of 3-4 students. Philosophy teams meet frequently (about once a week) and complete an in-class assignment together. There will be about nine philosophy team activities throughout the semester. They will be graded, and they cannot be made up. So, if you miss a team activity, you will receive no points for it. *However, I will drop your 2 lowest scores at the end of the*

*semester.* I only drop 2 scores though, even if you are sick or out of town or whatever. So, you should plan to use your two freebies for emergency-type situations.

4. *In-Class Writing Assignments (7%)*

There will be frequent, brief in-class writing assignments. Like the philosophy team activities, they cannot be made up. *However, I will drop your lowest 2 scores at the end of the semester.* Once again, I will not drop more than 2, even if you are sick. So, use your freebies wisely.

5. *Discussion Board (7%)*

There will be a discussion board on Canvas that you are required to contribute to. At the end of most weeks (typically on Friday), I will put a question or two on Canvas. You will need to respond to one of the questions and comment on the response of another student. You will have a couple days to make your posts. Discussion boards cannot be made up if you forget to do them. *However, you can skip discussion board twice.*

6. *Extra Credit*

There is none.

**Other Stuff**

*Office Hours*

I encourage you to come to my office hours and talk to me about the class. Don't be afraid to ask me your questions! If you are not available to meet during my office hours, I'd be happy to arrange another time to meet with you. Also, feel free to just drop by my office unannounced. If I'm there, I'd be glad to talk.

*Canvas*

There is a Canvas page associated with this course. You should check it regularly. On it you will find the syllabus, readings that don't appear in the textbook, any handouts that I distribute, and other miscellaneous documents relevant to the course.

*Disability Services*

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services for Students (DSS) in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

*Academic Dishonesty*

You should familiarize yourself with the UNH academic honesty policy. You can find this policy by doing a simple Google search, or you can go to: <http://www.unh.edu/vpsas/handbook/academic-honesty>. Acts of academic dishonesty will be subject to the maximum penalty allowed by this policy.

### *Assigned Readings/Paper and Pencil*

Please bring the assigned readings with you to class. I will often refer to them during class. Also, please bring paper and a writing utensil. Some classroom activities may require you to have paper and a pen/pencil.

### **Schedule**

Below is a tentative schedule for the course. Note: this schedule will likely change in various ways. Always consult Canvas for updated scheduling information.

S-L = Shafer-Landau textbook

GVV = *Giving Voice to Values* book

<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jan. 26	First day stuff, What is ethics?	
31	Logic 1, Ethical Egoism	S-L Introduction and Chap. 8; Optional: "Logical Toolkit"
Feb. 2	Logic 2, Prescriptive/Descriptive, Psychological Egoism	S-L Chap. 7
Feb. 7	Logic Activity, Utilitarianism	S-L Chap. 9-10
9	Utilitarianism, Kantianism	S-L Chap. 11
14	Kantianism, Rossianism (?), Pinto Activity	S-L Chap. 12
16	Relativism, Loose Ends	S-L Chap. 19
21	Exam 1	
23	Corporate Social Responsibility	Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Profits"; Case: VW Emissions
28	Corporate Social Responsibility	Freeman, "Managing for Stakeholders"; Case: NYSEG Corp. Resp. Program
Mar. 2	Corporate Social Responsibility	Carson, "Self-Interest and Business Ethics: Some Lessons of the Recent Corporate Scandals"; Case: Time Magazine Person of the Year 2002 (The Whistle-Blowers)
7	Whistle-Blowing	De George, "Whistleblowing"; Brenkert, "Whistle-Blowing, Moral Integrity, and Organizational Ethics"
9	Whistle-Blowing	Davis, "Some Paradoxes of Whistleblowing"; Case: Edward Snowden
14	Spring Break	
16	Spring Break	
21	Sweatshops	Maitland, "The Great Non-Debate Over International Sweatshops"; Case: Apple Factories

23	Sweatshops	Arnold and Bowie, "Sweatshops and Respect for Persons"
28	Exam 2	
30	IKEA and Child Labor / GVV Intro	IKEA Case; GVV Intro
Apr. 4	Factory Farming / GVV Assumptions	Rachels, "Vegetarianism"; GVV Chap. 1
6	Factory Farming / GVV Values	Rachels, "Vegetarianism"; GVV Chap. 2
11	Hiring Ethics – Bias / GVV Two Stories	Correll and Benard, "Gender and Racial Bias in Hiring"; GVV Chap. 3
13	Hiring Ethics – Affirmative Action / GVV It's Only Normal	Pojman, "The Case against Affirmative Action"; GVV Chap. 4
18	Hiring Ethics – Affirmative Action / GVV What Am I Working For?	Bowen and Bok, "The Meaning of Merit"; GVV Chap. 5
20	TBD (Sales Ethics?)	TBD / GVV Chap. 6
25	TBD (Sales Ethics?)	TBD / GVV Chap. 7
27	Exam 3	
May 2	GVV	GVV Chap. 8; Case Studies
4	GVV	GVV Chap. 9; Case Studies