

Module Documentation



BUST07026

Business Ethics & Corporate Governance

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BUST07026

Business Ethics & Corporate Governance

Short Title	Business Ethics & Corporate G		
Full Title	Business Ethics & Corporate Governance		
Attendance	N/A	Discipline	340 Business & Administration
Coordinator	Barry McMillan	Department	Business
Co Author(s)	Barry McMillan, Fearghal McHugh		
Official Code	BUST07026	NFQ Level	07
		ECTS Credit	05

Module Description

The purpose of the module is to give students a grounding in ethical reasoning & reflection, ethical principles, and ethical application.

The module enables students to have an awareness of their own (inherited) ethical stances and value systems, and introduces them to the practice of formal ethical thinking. It proceeds, then, to examinations of the development of Western ethical theory and of business ethics. In light of this grounding contextualisation, the module presents the main ethical approaches in the Western tradition, exploring their application to business functions and in business contexts in a globalised world.

The module aims to give students an awareness of corporate behaviour and the purpose of corporate governance in directing and controlling this behaviour. Students will appreciate the influences that affect ethical decision making and identify the factors that support professionalism in business.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module the learner will/should be able to

1. Reflect upon, and gain deeper awareness of, ethical contexts, inheritances, and legacies (personal and historical).
2. Differentiate between, and discuss, the predominant ethical frameworks in the Western tradition.
3. Integrate ethical principles and frameworks into fundamental business functions and contexts.
4. Explain the necessity of good corporate governance and the relevant approaches and structures.
5. Describe the impact of corporate governance on organisations and behaviour.
6. Assess the factors involved in decision making and the characteristics of being a professional.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

The module will be taught through a combination of theory, practical exercises, and applied case studies, using a reflexive methodology. Students will, as a result, be guided to reflect on their own personal ethics, value systems, and ethical contexts, before considering, and engaging with, ethics theoretically and in applied scenarios.

Lectures and seminars will be conducted in an interactive and discursive manner. A measured balance will be maintained between the reflective aspects of the module, the theoretical aspects of the module, and the practical and applied aspects of the module.

Assessment Strategies

Both theoretical and practical/applied aspects of the module will be assessed. The appropriate mode of assessment for the theoretical aspect is formal, terminal examination. The practical/applied elements will be assessed using case study or scenario-based continuous assessment.

Repeat Assessment Procedures

Repeat assessment will consist of a formal, terminal examination.

Module Dependencies

Prerequisite Modules

None

Corequisite Modules

None

Incompatible Modules

None

Indicative Syllabus

1. Contexts - Personal, Historical, & Contemporary Global

The Ethical Self:

Cultural contexts and inherited value systems; personal autonomy; self-awareness and self-reflection.

Exploring Ethical Thinking:

Why be good?; values, principles, decisions, and actions; personal ethics/social ethics/business ethics.

Western Ethical Thinking:

Origins & sources; history of ethics; legacies and contexts.

History of Contemporary Business Ethics:

American development; European development; global development.

2. Integration of Ethics and Business

Ethical Frameworks:

Duty-based; consequence-based; character-based; rights-based.

Ethics and Business Functions & Contexts:

Ethical questions and considerations arising in marketing, human resources, management, enterprise, finance, and operations.

3. Corporate Governance & Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Describe the principles and (UK combined/international) code(s) of governance and the impact on management and organisations.

Explain the impact of corporate governance in the context of principles vs. rules; risk; decision-making and controls.

Define Agency Theory and transaction cost theory.

Describe corporate governance structures and their impact on a company (public and private) in areas such as remuneration, auditing, risk, nomination, disclosure, and the company's relationship with stakeholders.

Integrated (sustainability) reporting including the financial, environmental, social and ethics sections.

4. The corporation and behaviour

Describe the elements contributing to corporate culture (e.g. cultural web) and corporate behaviour.

The impact of regulation, risk management and ethical models (e.g. Kohlberg, Tucker) in decision making and negotiation

The development and implementation of codes of ethics and reporting mechanisms, such as whistle blowing

The characteristics and factors that contribute to being an ethical professional.

CourseWork / Assessment Breakdown

CourseWork / Continuous Assessment 40 %

End of Semester / Year Formal Examination	60 %
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Coursework Assessment Breakdown

Description	Outcome Assessed	% of Total	Assessment Week
Case Study/Scenario	1,2,3	20	OnGoing
Case Study/Scenario	4,5,6	20	OnGoing

End Exam Assessment Breakdown

Description	Outcome Assessed	% of Total	Assessment Week
Final Exam	1,2,3,4,5,6	60	Week 15

ACCS Mode Workload

Type	Location	Description	Hours	Frequency	Avg Wkly Wrkld
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Total Average Weekly Learner Workload 0.00 Hours

Open Learning Mode Workload

Type	Location	Description	Hours	Frequency	Avg Wkly Wrkld
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Total Average Weekly Learner Workload 0.00 Hours

Distance Learning Mode Workload

Type	Location	Description	Hours	Frequency	Avg Wkly Wrkld
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Total Average Weekly Learner Workload 0.00 Hours

Part Time Mode Workload

Type	Location	Description	Hours	Frequency	Avg Wkly Wrkld
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Total Average Weekly Learner Workload 0.00 Hours

Full Time Mode Workload

Type	Location	Description	Hours	Frequency	Avg Wkly Wrkld
Lecture	Lecture Theatre	Lecture	2	Weekly	2.00
Seminar	Flat Classroom	Seminar	1	Weekly	1.00

Total Average Weekly Learner Workload 3.00 Hours

Online Learning Mode Workload

Type	Location	Description	Hours	Frequency	Avg Wkly Wrkld
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Total Average Weekly Learner Workload 0.00 Hours

Module Resources

Module Book Resources

Ferrell, O.C. (2014) *Business Ethics: Ethical Decision Making & Cases*, Cengage Learning. 1285423712, 9781285423715.

Jussi Suikkanen, 2014 *This Is Ethics: An Introduction (This is Philosophy)* Wiley-Blackwell. 1118479858, 9781118479858.

Simon Blackburn, 2003 *Being Good: A Short Introduction to Ethics* Oxford University Press. 0192853775, 9780192853776.

Solomon, *Corporate Governance and Accountability*, 3rd ed, Wiley

Monks & Minow, *Corporate Governance*, 5th ed, Wiley

P1 Professional Accountant, ACCA

Boatright, *Ethics in Finance*, 3rd ed Wiley ISBN: 978-1-118-61582-9,

Trevino, *Managing Business Ethics*, 5th ed, Wiley

Audi, *Business Ethics & Ethical Business*, 2009, Oxford

Mele, *Business Ethics in Action*,

Palgrave Mellahi, *The ethical business*, Palgrave

Module Alternate Book Resources

None

Module Other Resources

Achbar, Mark and Abbott, Jennifer (2007) *The Corporation* (DVD), Zeitgeist Films.

Armstrong, Franny and Loach, Ken (2005) *McLibel* (DVD), Spanner Films.

Ferguson, Charles (2010) *Inside Job* (DVD), Sony Pictures Classics.

Gibney, Alex (2005) *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* (DVD), Magnolia.

Greenwald, Robert (2005) *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price* (DVD), Brave New Films.

Module URLs

None

Additional Information

None

ISBN BookList

Book Details

O. C. Ferrell 2014 *Business Ethics: Ethical Decision Making & Cases* Cengage Learning
ISBN-10 1285423712 ISBN-13 9781285423715

Jussi Suikkanen 2014 *This Is Ethics: An Introduction (This is Philosophy)* Wiley-Blackwell
ISBN-10 1118479858 ISBN-13 9781118479858

Simon Blackburn 2003 *Being Good: A Short Introduction to Ethics* Oxford University Press
ISBN-10 0192853775 ISBN-13 9780192853776

Andrew Crane 2010 *Business Ethics: Managing Corporate Citizenship and Sustainability in the Age of Globalization* Oxford University Press, USA
ISBN-10 9780199564330 ISBN-13 9780199564330

2014 *Business Ethics: Readings and Cases in Corporate Morality* Wiley-Blackwell
ISBN-10 1118336682 ISBN-13 9781118336687

Dr Sheila Killian 2012 *Corporate Social Responsibility: A Guide, with Irish Experiences*
Chartered Accountants Ireland
ISBN-10 1907214631 ISBN-13 9781907214639

2009 *European Corporate Governance: Readings and Perspectives* Routledge
ISBN-10 0415405343 ISBN-13 9780415405348

Patrick E. Murphy 2012 *Ethics in Marketing: International Cases and Perspectives* Routledge
ISBN-10 0415783526 ISBN-13 9780415783521

Elaine Cohen 2010 *CSR for HR: A Necessary Partnership for Advancing Responsible Business Practices* Greenleaf
ISBN-10 1906093466 ISBN-13 9781906093464

Professor John Hendry 2013 *Ethics and Finance: An Introduction (Cambridge Applied Ethics)*
Cambridge University Press
ISBN-10 1107612489 ISBN-13 9781107612488

Colin Fisher 2012 *Business Ethics and Values (4th Edition)* Pearson Education Canada
ISBN-10 0273757911 ISBN-13 9780273757917

Harry J. Gensler 2011 *Ethics: A Contemporary Introduction (Routledge Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy)* Routledge
 ISBN-10 0415803888 ISBN-13 9780415803885

Heather Widdows 2014 *Global Ethics: An Introduction* Routledge
 ISBN-10 1844652823 ISBN-13 9781844652822

Approval Information

School Approval by Deirdre Lusby on 25-05-2015

Academic Council on 24-02-2016

Programme Membership

Code	Intake Year	Programme Title
GA_BBUAG_H08	201500	Bachelor of Business (Honours)
GA_BBENG_H08	201500	Bachelor of Business (Honours) with Entrepreneurship
GA_BBUSG_B07	201500	Bachelor of Business
GA_BFING_H08	201500	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Finance and Economics
GA_BWITH_H08	201500	Bachelor of Business (Honours) with a European Language
GA_BBENG_B07	201500	Bachelor of Business with Entrepreneurship
GA_BFING_B07	201500	Bachelor of Business in Finance
GA_BHUMA_B07	201500	Bachelor of Business in Human Resources
GA_BWITH_B07	201500	Bachelor of Business with a European Language
GA_BHUMA_H08	201500	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Human Resources