

MODULE DOCUMENTATION

Ethics and Governance

ETHI08005

Elective

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Full Title	Ethics and Governance		
Status	Uploaded to Banner	Start Term	2017
NFQ Level	08	ECTS Credits	05
Module Code	ETHI08005	Duration	Semester - (13 Weeks)
Grading Mode		Department	Service Industries
Module Author	Deirdre McMahon		

Module Description

The module provides students with a knowledge and understanding of: the nature, complexity and importance of ethical considerations in corporate decision making, moral reasoning and approaches to resolving ethical dilemmas. The module initially focuses on enabling students to have an awareness of their own ethical stances and value systems, and it then moves to provide a broad grounding in ethical principles and ethical applications. The module adopts an applied focus on ethical business practice, corporate governance and corporate social responsibility, in local, national and globalised contexts.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Examine the importance of ethical contexts, inheritances, frameworks and legacies personal and historic.
2. Apply conceptual reasoning to an analysis and critical evaluation of the relationship between corporations and society and to ethical issues arising in a corporate context.
3. Critically analyse the forces shaping corporate behaviour and governance in a variety of organisational contexts.
4. Assess the business practices, governance, and/or corporate social responsibility policies of diverse business organisations.
5. Evaluate a selection of current issues, practices and future directions in corporate ethics and governance.
6. Apply and integrate perspectives of the evolving corporate ethical environment in Ireland.

Indicative Syllabus

Conceptual Foundations (30%):

The Ethical Self – cultural contexts and inherited value systems, personal autonomy; self-awareness and self-reflection.

Exploring Ethical Thinking: the concept of a moral being – why be good? stages of cognitive and moral development, values, principles, decisions, and actions; personal ethics/social ethics/business ethics; difficulties in ethical decisions.

Ethical Frameworks and Principles: Duty-based; consequence-based; character-based; rights-based, community-based.

Corporate Ethics (30%)

Nature and evolution of the corporate organisation; corporate moral agency; business and corporate purposes, responsibilities and accountability; ethical decision making and ethical leadership; corporate societal responsibility debate; remedies for unethical behaviour; managing ethics in corporations including codes of ethics..

Ethical Issues in Corporate Organisations (20%)

Ethics in employee relations, supplier relations, marketing and customer relations, production, and finance; ethical investment; relationship with the state; business and the physical environment; corporate philanthropy; ethics in international business; ethics and globalization

Corporate Governance (20%)

Nature and origins of the governance debate; governance perspectives and models; regulatory framework and codes of practice; non-executive directors; director and executive remuneration and accountability; international governance; relevance to SMEs, public and voluntary sector organisations.

Indicative Content Weighting

The weighting is intended as an indicative guide to the relative importance of each syllabus topic. However, the topics are inter-related and may be delivered and assessed in an integrated fashion. The weightings do not necessarily specify the marks which will be allocated to individual topics in the assessments.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

This 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. It is envisaged that an issues-based approach will prove useful for delivering parts of the module and that reference will be made to literature, drama, film and TV as illustrative examples.

The course will be delivered in seminar format and a strong emphasis will be placed on interactive teaching and learning that will employ group work, presentations, in class discussion and reflection, online activity on Moodle, case study analysis, and analysis of literature and film.

Assessment Strategy

This module is assessed by 100% continuous assessment. This is appropriate to the module as a means of inferring the degree of achievement of the module intended learning outcomes, in a robust, valid and fair manner.

The continuous assessment is necessarily summative but it has an underlying formative intent. Its purpose is to enhance students' conceptual knowledge and understanding of corporate ethics and governance issues as per the module aims. It is envisaged that there will be four continuous assessment elements one of which will be carried out on a group basis.

Repeat Assessment Strategies

Resubmission of failed continuous assessment elements or repeat examination.

Indicative Coursework and Continuous Assessment:		100 %		
Form	Title	Percent	Week (Indicative)	Learning Outcomes
Assignment	Online Submission	15 %	Week 3	1,2
Group Project	Film Analysis/Review	30 %	Any	1,2,3,4
Assessment	Case Study	40 %	Week 10	1,2,3,4,5,6
Assignment	Online Submission	15 %	Week 13	1,2,5

Full Time Delivery Mode Average Weekly Workload:			3.00 Hours		
Type	Description	Location	Hours	Frequency	Weekly Avg
Lecture	Lecture	Tiered Classroom	1	Weekly	1.00
Seminar	Seminar	Flat Classroom	2	Weekly	2.00

Literary Resources

No single text is recommended for this module. Readings may be assigned from a variety of texts. The following is an indicative reading list:

Bakan, J. (2004). *The Corporation; The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*, Constable & Robinson

Carroll, A. & Buchholtz, A. (2011). *Business & Society: Ethics and Stakeholder Management*, 8th Ed., Thomson

Crane, A., & Matten, D. (2010). *Business ethics: Managing corporate citizenship and sustainability in the age of globalisation* 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University.

Crane, A. & Matten, D. (2010). *Business Ethics: A European Perspective*, 3 rd Ed. , Oxford

Andrew Crane (2010). *Business Ethics: Managing Corporate Citizenship and Sustainability in the Age of Globalization*, Oxford University Press, USA

Driver, J. (2007). *Ethics: The Fundamentals*, Blackwell

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

Fisher, C.(2012). *Business Ethics and Values*. 4th Ed. Pearson Education Canada

Gensler, H.J.(2011). *Ethics: A Contemporary Introduction* (Routledge Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy) Routledge

Griseri, P. & Seppala, N. (2010). *Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility*, South-Western Cengage Learning,

Jennings, M. (2012). *Business Ethics: Case Studies and Selected Readings*, International Edition, South-Western Cengage

Killian, S. (2012). *Corporate Social Responsibility: A Guide, with Irish Experiences* Chartered Accountants Ireland

Monks R. & Minnow N. (2011). *Corporate Governance*, 5th Ed., Wiley

Newton, L. & Schmidt, D. (2004). *Wake-Up Calls: Classic Cases in Business Ethics*, Thomson South-Western

Sandel, M.J. (2009). *Justice: What's the right thing to do?* Allen Lane

Sandel, M.J. (2012). *What money can't buy: The moral limits of markets*, Penguin

Solomon, J. (2010). *Corporate Governance and Accountability*, 3rd Ed., Wiley

Trevino L. & Nelson, K. (2011). *Managing Business Ethics*, 5th Ed., Wiley

Visser, W., Matten, D. Pohl, M. & Tolhurst, N. (2010). *The A-Z of Corporate Social Responsibility*, Wiley

NOTE : Latest edition of texts to be used in each case.

Online Resources

Other Resources

Print Media

Students are expected to keep abreast of current affairs and contemporary issues of direct relevance to business ethics by reading daily newspapers and news periodicals (for example, The Irish Times, The Economist, The Financial Times etc.), and selected articles from professional and academic journals including Harvard Business Review.

Other Resources

A variety of media including film, literature, TV, YouTube and other media will be used to support learning on this module. Media will be chosen to reflect syllabus content and delivery emphasis.

Class discussion will also draw upon contemporary documentaries and TV series and students will be encouraged to recommend contemporary media for class discussion

The following is an indicative list of films which may be used to support learning:

Film Year Director Distributor

The Firm (1993) Pollack, S., Paramount Pictures

The Insider (1999) Mann, M., Buena Vista Pictures

Erin Brockovich (2000) Soderberg, S. Columbia Pictures

Dirty Pretty Things (2002) Frears, S, Knight, S, BBC Films & Celador Films

Equilibrium (2002) Wimmer, K; Miramax Films

The Corporation (2003) Achbar, M., Abbot, J., Zeitgeist Films

Hotel Rwanda (2004) George, T Universal Pictures

Syriana (2005) Gaghan, S, Warner Bros

The Constant Gardner (2005) Meirelles, F. Focus Features

The lives of others (2006) von Donnersmark, F.H. Buena Vista International

Blood Diamond (2006) Zwick, E, Warner Bros

A Inconvenient Truth (2006) Guggenheim, Paramount Classics

The Departed (2006) Scorsese. M; Warner Bros

Michael Clayton (2007) Gilroy, T. Warner Bros

Gone Baby Gone (2007) Affleck, B, Stockhard, A. Miramax

Valkyrie (2008) Singer, B, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Inside Job (2010) Ferguson, C, Sony Pictures Classics
12 Years a Slave (2013) McQueen, S. Fox Searchlight Films
Dallas Buyers Club (2013) Vallée, J.M., Focus Features
Spotlight (2015), Open Road Films

Library resources

Additional Information

None

Programme Membership

GA_HITMG_H08 201900 Bachelor of Business (Honours) in International Tourism Management
GA_OIHMG_H08 202000 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in International Hotel Management
GA_OEVAG_H08 202000 Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Event Management with Public Relations