BUS306-004
Business Ethics

Fall Term 2019
Tuesday 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.
Thursday 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Class Room #: ED 558
Office Hours: by appointment
(Available before and after class by appointment)

Midterm Exam: Oct 17th at 5:30pm
Final Exam Dec 14th at 9am

Professor: Maggie Austring
Section: 001
E-mail: maggie.austring@uregina.ca
URCourses: https://urcourses.uregina.ca/login/index.php

Special Needs
If there is any student in this course who, because of disability, may have a need for special accommodations, please come and discuss this with me, as well as contact the Coordinator of Special Needs Services at 585-4631.

Course Description
This is an overview course to demonstrate the importance of ethical considerations in the administrative of organizations. This course is designed to give undergraduate students a conceptual and practical knowledge of business ethics. This course will provide students with expectations of the professional world while exploring the personal basis for ethical decision making. This class will consist of lectures, class discussions, videos, group debates, and guest lectures.
Assignments: Readings and Exercises

You will be working primarily from a textbook. Concepts and how they apply in organizations may appear simple on the surface, but typically, they are more subtle, complex and difficult to apply. To understand the material covered in this course, it is crucial that you read the material (text and case) before class sessions so that you can contribute thoughtfully to the class discussions and exercises. It is also essential that applications assignments be prepared prior to class meetings in the manner indicated by the syllabus. It is your responsibility to note these assignments ahead of time. During the semester, we will have guest speakers and you will get an advance notice concerning forthcoming conferences.

Required Texts


Supplemental Readings

Other relevant readings are posted on the UR Courses site and/or referenced in class. These will be helpful for a fuller understanding of the subject matter and in-class discussions.
Ground Rules &
Important Information To Know

This is a business course. Accordingly, an appropriate level of professionalism is expected:

- ABSOLUTELY No texting, emailing, instant messaging, and phone calls during class
- All students are required to have a name card displayed during EACH class
- You are expected to attend every class and to arrive to class prior to the start time.
- **If you miss more than 5 classes for any reasons (including late registration and missing the first class), you will not be allowed to write the final, no exception.** Accordingly to University Policy, an instructor may refuse to allow a student to write the final exam if he/she has not maintained reasonable attendance.
- Family/winter vacation is not a valid reason for missing a midterm exam, final exam, group presentation, or any classes.
- Participation is important for this course – 15% course mark
- Participation marks for each class range from 0.5-1% of your grade. (look at course outline for complete detail)

Please note:
- Coming to class late will affect your attendance/participation mark. E.g. 5-7 mins = 1/8 class, 8-15 mins late = 1/4 class, 16-30 mins late = missing 1/2 class ...etc
- If you miss classes for any reasons, you will miss participation marks
- No makeup **Mid-Term** exam (Oct 17th, 5:30pm)
- No makeup **Final** exam (Dec 14th, 9am)
- I don’t do favouritism. We need to hold a high ethical ground especially in a business ethics class. I will treat everyone fairly with the marks that they earn, not based on their needs regarding scholarship GPA requirement or to change their poor peer evaluation because they didn’t contribution much to their group project.
- Email me only at maggie.austring@uregina.ca, NOT on URCourses please
- Take notes during class, video discussions, and group debates – you will see them in exams.
- Read the textbook chapters thoroughly for both exams
- Want to talk to me? I am usually available after class.

Grading

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Ethics in Current Event</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Debate Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Term</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Business Ethics in Current Events (5%)
Individual Presentation

Each student conducts a research on newspaper, Internet, on-line database, or other forms of media that can be accessed by the student. The objective is to discover a “current event” that is relevant to the course (refer to your text), not any general ethical subjects that are not related to the course such as abortion. The current events can occur in Saskatchewan, Canada, or internationally. At the beginning of each class, students will be given 4 minutes each to briefly discuss the current events. You are required to present the following information:

1. Provide a BRIEF background (about 1 min)
2. (A) Identify the business ethical issues AND
   (B) Apply theories and logics that are related to the course (most important element in the presentation)
   • Must use terms and theories learned in this course

Tips on how to do well:
• I will time each presentation to maximum 4 minutes. Prepare the speech and practice/time yourself accordingly. Practice. Practice.
• Please refer to the “class schedule” at the end of the “Course Outline” document on URCourses for suitable subjects/ideas.

IMPORTANT:
Students will be assigned with a presentation date during class, please refer to URCourses homepage for the assigned presentation date.
No makeup presentations for students who miss their scheduled presentations.

Students will be given a grade from 0-5%, depending on how well they fulfil the following requirements:

BUS306
Current Event Presentation

Students have maximized the 4 mins allowed (but not over 4 mins) on the subject matter

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Important:
Students applied and “quoted” proper ethical theories/logics/terms covered in this course (Minimum 10 theories)

Number of Applicable Theories Applied: ________________

TOTAL /5
Group Debates (25%)  

Students (about 3 students in each group) will be assigned with a debate topic and debate position (affirmative or opposition) during the first class.

**IMPORTANT: Debates must focus on BUSINESS ethics, Not ethics in general.**

**Tips:** You will want to start your research early in the semester to ensure the level of knowledge required to obtain a good grade. Your understanding on the debate subject should be clear, concise and well thought out. It is normal to think through it a few times before turning into a sound argument.

Diligent research is important to any debate. Although you don’t have to submit a hand-written paper, you must submit a list of APA references to demonstrate the extent of the research conducted for your debate. APA Reference Deadline: Hand it in before you start your debate on your presentation date, hard copy only.

**IMPORTANT:** On Sept 12th and 17th, a debate coach from the Saskatchewan Elocution & Debate Association (SEDA) is invited to demonstrate the basic debate technique applicable for this course. This is a very important class for each individual to learn how to perform in the debate project. If you miss this class, you will likely feel lost and perform poorly in your project.

25% will be allocated to your debate project. The grade given by the instructor will be calculated again based on the peer evaluation made by your fellow group member.

**Example 1** – your group contribution is the same as the rest of the team:
- Your debate group mark is 80%. If your peer evaluation score is 100% which means your team have evaluated your contribution equally theirs, your final debate mark is 80% (80%x100%=80%).

**Example 2** – your group contribution is less than the rest of the team:
- Your debate group mark is 80%. If your peer evaluation score is 70% which means your team expressed that you have not been contributed nearly as much as the rest of the team, you final debate mark is 56% (80%x70%=56%).

**Example 3** – your group contribution is greater than the rest of the team:
- Your debate group mark is 80%. If your peer evaluation score is 110% which means your team expressed that you have not been contributed nearly as much as the rest of the team, you final debate mark is 88% (80%x110%=88%). The cap is 120% maximum.

Why do we have this evaluation system? No one likes free loaders. This system promotes a positive work ethics right in the business ethics class! Please do not be selfish and mean, but to be honest and fair! An evaluation grid for presentations is attached below:
## BUS306 Evaluation of Group Debate Presentations

Date:___________

Subject:________________________________________________________

Names of Presenter:_______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

Using a scale of 1 to 5 (5= excellent 1= poor), rate the group as a whole for the following items by circling the appropriate number:

Students demonstrated good business ethics knowledge and applied proper ethical theories and logic that they have learned from this course (minimum 20 theories)

**Number of Applicable Theories Applied:** _____________

Students demonstrated dynamic research and analysis on the subject matter

Important:

Students presented with a logical and sound argument for the debate subject based on their debate position

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<td>10</td>
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TOTAL /25
BUS 306 - Peer Evaluation Form

(Each group member has to submit this form in person before your Presentation, Hard copy only.)

Business Debate Topic: _____________________________________________

Debate Position (circle one): Affirmative or Opposition

Your Name: ____________________________

This peer evaluation should rate each member’s contributions to the project. To complete the form, you are asked to estimate the percentage contribution of each group member to the completion of each presentation. You are asked to estimate the percentage contribution of each group member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group member names (including yourself)</th>
<th>Time/Effort/Contribution (%)</th>
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<td>4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Be sure this sums to 100%

If there are any major discrepancies in the table above: You must explain your reasons for making any significantly uneven allocations in the space below.

Explanation of discrepancies and/or additional individual comments (Please feel free to provide further comment on a separate page):
Class Attendance and Participation (15%)

Because this course relies heavily on applications and discussions of materials, 15% of your final grade will be determined from class contribution.

1. Participation is very important in this class and I take it seriously.

2. The participation mark for each class ranges from 0.5-1% of your grade. Attending and participating each lecture is 0.5%. Debate classes and research classes add extra 1% – I encourage you to learn from each group and ask good questions.

3. Your participation mark comes in 2 parts: attendance & participation for EACH CLASS (50/50).

How to get a good attendance mark:

• If you attend half of a class, you will only get half of the attendance mark for that class

How to get good participation mark:

1. Read the suggested chapters and PowerPoint files listed in the class syllabus for each class – it will help you to answer my questions during the class.

2. Pulling your own weight on group projects and participating enthusiastically in classroom activities: Being an active participant in class and group discussions.

3. Making observations that integrate concepts and discussions.

4. Citing relevant personal examples.

5. Please post all your questions in URCourses and I also encourage you to answer other classmates' questions. Please DO NOT email me in URCourses. If you participate well (both in class and on URCourses), you get full participation mark (every class counts separately).

6. I would love to give you the full 15%, but it is really up to you what you are going to get.
**Mid Term** (25 Points)

There will be one midterm exam. The exam can be a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer formats, and will be worth 25 percent of the course mark.

**Midterm exam date/time: Oct 17th, at 5:30 pm**

If you miss the mid-term exam, no make up exam will be provided and the marks will be deferred to the final only if an authentic doctor note is provided, no exceptions.

**Final Exam** (30 Marks)

There will be one final exam (close book). The exam can be a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer formats, and will be worth 30 percent of the course mark.

**Final exam date/time: Dec 14th, at 9am**

If you miss the final exam, you will need to discuss with the Associate Dean, Morina Rennie at 306-585-4715. No exceptions.

**Plagiarism**

The Faculty of Business Administration of the University of Regina may punish offending students in any manner that they deem fit. The University regards this form of cheating as a serious offence. Please consider yourself warned.

University policy on plagiarism: [http://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/calendar/policy_univ.shtml](http://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/calendar/policy_univ.shtml)
## BUS 306 - CLASS SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

**IMPORTANT:** If you miss more than 5 classes (including late registration & missing the first class), you will not be allowed to write the final, no exceptions.

No make up midterm or final exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>PARTICIPATION Mark</th>
<th>PPT</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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</table>
| 1    | Sept 5 | • Course Introduction  
• Project Grouping  
• Draw for group debate order  
• Draw for current event presentation order | 15% | Intro |
| 2    | Sept 10 | • Introduction to Business and Society  
• Ethics of Business: The Theoretical Basis | /0.5 | 1 | 5 |
|      | Sept 12 | **IMPORTANT CLASS**  
Debate Practice Workshop  
**Guess Speaker** Melissa Ong - Debate Coach, SEDA  
• How to debate for your project  
• Debate workshop  
(live debate with your real project opponents) | /0.5 |
| 3    | Sept 17 (Sept 17th - Last day dropping a class) | **IMPORTANT CLASS**  
Demo Debate from SEDA members & student volunteers  
• Is Capitalism good business ethics? | /0.5 |
|      | Sept 19 | 1. Current Events presentation  
2. Current Events presentation  
• Ethics of Business: The Theoretical Basis | /0.5 | 5 | 5 |
|      | Sept 24 | 3. Current Events presentation  
4. Current Events presentation  
• Ethics and Capitalism | /0.5 | 2 | 2 |
|      | Sept 26 | **Group Debate 1**  
• Many non-profit org. executives make six figure wages. Is it right or wrong? | /1 |
| 5    | Oct 1 | 5. Current Events presentation  
6. Current Events presentation  
• Identifying stakeholders & issues | /0.5 | 3 | 3 |
|      | Oct 3 | **Group Debate 2**  
• Is ‘factory farming’ ethical to consumers? | /1 |
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| 6    | Oct 8  | 7. Current Events presentation  
8. Current Events presentation  
   • Ethics of Business: Management and Leadership | /0.5 6 6 |
|      | Oct 10 | 9. Current Events presentation  
10. Current Events presentation  
   • Corporate Social Responsibility: The concept | /0.5 7 7 |
| 7    | Oct 15 | 11. Current Events presentation  
12. Current Events presentation  
   • Regulating Business (chapter 10- business lobbying) | /0.5 10 10 |
|      | Oct 17 | MID TERM EXAM 25%  
   chapter 1,2,3,5,6,7,10 | |
| 8    | Oct 22 | 13. Current Events presentation  
14. Current Events presentation  
   • Ownership and Governance of Corporation | /0.5 11 11 |
|      | Oct 24 | 15. Current Events presentation  
16. Current Events presentation  
   • Ethics and Responsibility in the Workplace | /0.5 12 12 |
| 9    | Oct 29 | Group Debate 3  
   • Should employers find individual’s information on social media for making hiring, firing, and promotion decisions? | /1 |
|      | Oct 31 | 17. Current Events presentation  
18. Current Events presentation  
   • Ethics and Responsibility in the Marketplace  
   • Video (false advertising): Marketplace video: Lousy Labels - Part 1 | /0.5 12 12 |
| 10   | Nov 5  | 19. Current Events presentation  
20. Current Events presentation  
   • Ethics and Responsibility in the Marketplace  
   • Video (false advertising): Marketplace video: Lousy Labels - Part 2 | /0.5 12 12 |
|      | Nov 7  | 21. Current Events presentation  
22. Current Events presentation  
   Class Project  
   • Advertising to children, is it ethical? | /0.5 0.5 |
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>23. Current Events presentation</td>
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<td>24. Current Events presentation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Globalization and Business responsibilities</td>
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<td>25. Current Events presentation</td>
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<td>26. Current Events presentation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The Environment and Business Responsibilities</td>
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<td>Nov 14</td>
<td><strong>Group Debate 4</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Is International Outsourcing Ethical?</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>27. Current Events presentation</td>
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<td>28. Current Events presentation</td>
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<td>• The Environment and Business Responsibilities</td>
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<td>• Video: The BBC World Debate; How accountable is business?</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>29. Current Events presentation</td>
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<td>• The Environment and Business responsibilities</td>
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<td>Nov 26</td>
<td><strong>Group Debate 5</strong></td>
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<td>• Are Business Ethics or Profits more important?</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>31. Current Events presentation</td>
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<td>• The Environment and Business responsibilities</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>• Course Wrap Up</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>• Prepare for final exam</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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<td>Dec 14</td>
<td><strong>Dec 14th at 9am 30%</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 1,2,3,5,6,7,10,11,12,14,15</td>
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