## Texas MBA Law, Ethics, and Corporate Social Responsibility Fall 2011

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a telephone number where you can be reached. I will return your

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Text: Spence & Prentice, Law, Ethics and Corporate Social

Responsibility: Theory and Practice (draft), available free via

course blackboard and supplements

Grading: Your grade will be made up of the following components:

Class Contribution 25% Write up of personal ethical dilemma 10% Team Presentation of mini-case 20%

Memos on mini-cases 20% (2 @ 10% each)

Company risk analysis 25%

Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

Computers, recorders and other electronic devices may not be used during class.

## Grading & Assignments

Class Contribution: This class will mix class discussion with a large dose of applied learning (discussion of assigned problems and exercises). In order to prepare for class, students will need to complete the reading assignments and assigned problems in advance. We have kept the reading assignments short so that students will have time to (i) think about the discussion questions (found in discussion "boxes" in the assigned readings) posed in the reading assignment, and (ii) prepare for class discussion of those questions, homework problems or mini-case exercises (explained below) assigned for that day's class. Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss these issues/scenarios, and will be called upon to do so by the instructor.

We all must attend each class with a firm understanding of the assignment for that day and a willingness to participate in class discussions so that we each may benefit from the ideas of the others. You will be expected to be able to answer

questions and ask relevant and thoughtful questions. When evaluating any individual's contribution, quantity and volume are much less important than quality and perceptiveness. At the beginning of each class a roll sheet will be circulated. If you were in your seat ready to participate at the beginning of class and remain for the entire class period, please signify present with your initials. Please mark tardy if you were not present and ready at the beginning of class but arrived later or if you leave early. Signing the attendance sheet during class is the responsibility of the student. The attendance sheets will be the only measure of your attendance.

Students should attend each class. Any student who misses more than three classes is subject to a letter grade reduction. Please look at your calendar for the semester and budget your known absences in advance. If you are tardy twice it will count as a missed class.

Discussion Boxes: Whenever a reading assignment contains a discussion box, students should take time to read and think about the issues posed in the discussion box. These will form a part of the next day's in-class discussion. Taking time to consider and formulate a response to the questions raised in discussion boxes is an important part of preparation for the next day's class discussion.

Homework assignments: The text contains "homework boxes" assigning further work in preparation for the next day's class. Students should write up and turn in only those homework assignments listed in the "other preparation" portion of the table below. For each homework assignment, students should prepare a (maximum) 1-page written response. Please bring a hard copy of the written response to class, and turn it in at the end of class.

*Mini-case exercises:* The text includes references to a number of so-called "mini-case exercises," hypothetical problems posing ethical and legal dilemmas. We will use some (but not all) of these hypothetical scenarios in class. Specifically, we will use them in two ways.

First, each student will be part of a team presentation of one of the mini-case exercises. Each student team will make a 20 minute presentation analyzing the problem and explaining how to proceed in response to the problem. Student teams should be prepared for our critical questioning and comments from the audience, and will be expected to defend their choice of a preferred alternative under questioning. Assignment of student teams to individual mini-cases will take place early in the course.

Second, each student will prepare and submit two short (max. 5 pages, double-spaced) memos explaining his or her recommended approach to the problems raised in two of the mini-case exercises. Students may choose two mini-cases on BlackBoard. However, neither memo may concern the same mini case on which the student presents as part of a team; and the two mini-cases selected must come from different parts of the course, and from a different part of the course than the student's mini-case presentation. The major parts of the course are distinguished by Law, Ethics, CSR, etc. All memos should be submitted electronically before class on the due date, using the SafeAssign feature on blackboard.

Paper – Personal Ethical Dilemma: You shall turn in a paper, no more than four papers in length, double spaced, that describes an ethical dilemma that you have experienced or believe that you might experience in your chosen profession. The paper should fully describe the issue, the possible alternatives (cost and benefits), the group or organizational pressures present, your choice of the available alternatives, the reason for your choice and a description of what you would have done differently looking back on the situation.

Company Risk Analysis: Working in small groups, students will prepare an analysis of the major elements of legal, political and ethical risks and opportunities currently facing the company of their choice. The analysis should identify and prioritize the most important risks/opportunities, and make recommendations to the company about managing them. Ideally, students should build these analyses throughout the semester, as we tackle in class each of the individual elements of the legal, ethical, political and cultural environment of business. However, the analysis is not due until the end of the semester. These analyses should be written as if addressed to the chief strategic planning officer of the company. Company risk analyses should not be longer than 20 pages, double spaced, should be submitted electronically on the due date, using the SafeAssign feature on blackboard and in hard copy.

## Your work:

Unless you are specifically instructed to work with others, your work in this class shall be your own independent and original work for this class. Cheating in a class on Ethics is so much more than wrong.

## Honor Code:

The University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business requires each enrolled student to adopt the Honor System. The Honor Pledge best describes the conduct promoted by the Honor System. It reads as follows: "I affirm that I belong to the honorable community of The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Business. I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor will I tolerate those who do. I pledge my full support to the Honor System. I agree to be bound at all times by the Honor System and understand that any violation may result in my dismissal from the Graduate School of Business."

Cheating in a course on Ethics is some much worse than wrong.

*Note:* Nothing in this syllabus displaces the overarching laws of common sense, logic, truth, physics, wisdom, nature or humor.

			Tentative schedule (but we will move at our own pace)		
Day	Date	Section	Topic	Readings	Other preparation
	25-				please be prepared to discuss the
1	Aug	Intro	Introduction	Chapter 1	Exercise at 1-10
	30-		Legal systems, dispute resolution, public order,		Be prepared to discuss mini-case Trade
2	Aug	Law	ownership	2-1 to 2-11	Secrets 2-9
	1-				Be prepared to discuss mini-case Insider
3	Sep	Law	Exchange of property and regulation	2-11 to 2-35	Trading 2-21
	6-				
4	Sep	Law	Mini-case - Intellectual Ventures		Listen to "When Patents Attack!"
	8-			Handout Case on	
5	Sep	Law	Spotlight on the Law of Pricing	Pricing (provided)	Handout Case on Pricing
	13-		Mini-cases - False Advertising and Bidding on Public		
6	Sep	Law	Contracts		
	15-				
7	Sep	Law	Injury and who should bear the cost?		Supplement - case: Runaway Tire
	20-	Edd.	Fibin Hambard and State State 2	2.4.1-2.40	
8	Sep 22-	Ethics	Ethics - How should members of a society behave?	3-1 to 3-10	
9		Ethics	Things that got in the way of othical desision making	3-11 to 3-17	Homework at 3-16 is turned in
9	Sep 27-	EUIICS	Things that get in the way of ethical decision making	3-11 (0 3-17	Homework at 3-16 is turned in
10	Sep	Ethics	Mini-cases - Marketing Cigarettes and Child Labor		
10	29-	Lines	With cases Warketing eigerettes and eima Eason		
11	Sep	Ethics	Organizational and group biases	3-17 to 3-21	Homework on page 3-2 is turned in
	4-		a de la companya de l		Discuss Mini-cases Age Discrimination and
12	Oct	Ethics	Ethics in the work place		Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
	6-		·		
13	Oct	Ethics	Managing ethical risk	3-22 to 3-33	
				Text on	
	11-			Corporations	
14	Oct	CSR	CSR -Law of Corporations	(provided)	
	13-		·		Written homework on page 4-10 and on
15	Oct	CSR	CSR - Introduction	4-1 to 4-18	page 4-17
	18-				
16	Oct	CSR	Mini-cases - Fair Trade and Living Wage		

	20-				no written homework due but please be
17	Oct	CSR	Stakeholders	4-19 to 4-26	prepared to discuss the homework
	25-				
18	Oct	CSR	Mini-case - The Public Hearing		
	27-				
19	Oct	Politics	Political Context	5-1 to 5-10	Turn in Homework on 5-4
	1-				
20	Nov	Politics	Legislature and Executive	5-11 to 5-29	Turn in Homework on 5-11
	3-		Mini-cases - Facilitation Payments and Campaign		
21	Nov	Politics	Contributions		
	8-				Written homework on page 6-2 and
22	Nov	Culture	Culture	6-1 to 6-10	discussion on Guanxi and Gift Giving
	10-				No written homework due but please be
23	Nov	Culture	Culture	6-10 to end	prepared to discuss the homework
	15-				
24	Nov	Conclusion	Chapter 7 Conclusion	Chapter 7	
	17-				
25	Nov	Present	Presentation of Risk Analysis		
	29-		·		
26	Nov	Present	Presentation of Risk Analysis		
	1-		·		
27	Dec	present	Presentation of Risk Analysis		