THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Texas Evening MBA
The Ethical Environment of Business
Spring 2010

Instructor: Christopher H. Meakin

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Text: Ciulla, et al., *Honest Work: A Business Ethics Reader* (2007)

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

Class attendance and contribution			25%
Journal	due	2/15	25%
Personal ethics paper	due	2/15	25%
Group ethics project	due	2/15	25%

Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

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

Attendance, Assignments, and Class Contribution:

Please read the assigned material from the text and before each class. 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. As we have few class meetings, missing a class means missing a significant percentage of the material covered and results in a lower grade.

Journal

You will keep a journal throughout the semester. The journal should contain one recent news article for each week - four entries are required. The article may be on any topic related to

the ethics and business. Please produce or reproduce the article onto 8 ½" x 11" paper. Additionally, each article shall be accompanied by your thoughts on the issues raised by the article including the issues you have identified, who must deal or has dealt with the issues, your recommendation or critique on how the issue should be or was handled and how should society react. Your thoughts should be no more than one page per article. You should bring your journal and be prepared to discuss your entries each week after the first meeting. The journals are due on the last day of the course. The journal should be a professional work product but binders or folders are not necessary. One staple in the upper left hand corner of your journal is sufficient.

Paper – Personal Ethical Dilemma: you shall turn in a paper, no more than three 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, your choice of the available alternatives, and reason for your choice.

Ethical Exercise and Report:

You will be assigned to a group and given an ethical issue. Your group should prepare a report, no longer than three pages double spaced, that evaluates the issue, describes alternatives and the plus and minuses of each alternative, and your chosen course of action. Your group will present its report to the class.

The project will be explained in more detail during class. The grade for this project will have a peer review portion. The report is due on the day of your presentation.

Your work:

Unless you are specifically instructed to work with others, your work in this class shall be your own independent work. It is probably redundant to note that unethical behavior in a class on ethics is more than just wrong.

Note:

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

Class Schedule – Spring 2010
(Below is an estimate of what topics will be covered and when, however the class will move at its own pace)

January 20, 2010	*Introductions and stakeholder theory* Honest Work - Chapters 7 and cases Chapters 36 and 37 posted on BlackBoard
January 25, 2010	*Honesty and corporate social responsibility* Honest Work – Chapters 3 & 6 and cases
February 1, 2010	*Corporate governance, accounting and finance* Honest Work – Chapters 5 & 16 and cases
February 8, 2010	*Technology and employment issues* Honest Work – Chapters 2 & 8 and cases
February 15, 2010	*Group Presentations*