

Ethics and Business
University of Texas/MBA Dallas
Summer 2010

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Objective: This course is intended to help students explore ethical issues in business, including both intra-firm ethical dilemmas and broader issues concerning the social responsibility of business.

Participation: You are expected to have read the assigned readings before class and be prepared to discuss them. You should be prepared to discuss any issues raised in “Discussion Boxes” and “Homework Boxes” in the readings, and any mini-cases being presented in class. Missing class, being unprepared for class, and appearing disengaged or disinterested will hurt your participation grade. [More about participation grades.](#)

In-class case presentations/debates: Student groups will lead the presentation of each of the 9 mini-case problems. The mini-cases are posted on Sharepoint. There is no written presentation required as part of this work, though student teams may wish to prepare slides or handouts as part of their presentations of the case. The entire session (including discussion and Q&A) should consume 35-40 minutes, of which 25 minutes should be your team’s initial presentation. The presentation should lay out the case or problem briefly (in 5 min. or less), and should use the remaining time to develop and explain your team’s proposed course of action. Your team should also lead the Q&A/discussion to follow. Presentation teams for each cohort are posted on Sharepoint. [More on presentations.](#)

Ethical Analysis: You should identify two current ethical dilemmas faced by business firms. These can be drawn from your own experiences or from contemporary news accounts, but should not cover the exact same issues raised by mini-cases or examples we discuss in class. For each dilemma, provide a 1-2 page (single-spaced) memo addressing the following issues:

- What is the ethical issue implicated or raised by this case?
- How did the manager or company respond to this issue?
- How would you have responded differently, and why?

Please append the news article(s) or other description of the facts to your memo. This assignment is due at our last class meeting.

Grading: Your grade will comprise the following: in-class discussion (35%); mini-case presentation (35%); and ethical analysis (30%).

Readings: All the readings for this class are drawn from the draft textbook, Spence & Prentice, *Law, Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility: Theory and Practice* (draft), available as pdf files via Sharepoint.

Miscellaneous:

- Use of laptops, cell phones or other electronic communication devices is not permitted in class. If there is an important learning-based reason why you need to use a laptop, we can make exceptions to this rule on a case-by-case basis.
- All students are expected to abide by the business school's honor code and [academic dishonesty policy](#), to do all of their own individual work individually (without help from others) unless the work is a group project, and not to plagiarize written work. Please review the UT tutorial on plagiarism by here: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/>. Cheating or plagiarism will be grounds for dismissal from the class.
- **This class will adhere to the McCombs Professionalism Policy**

Schedule, Readings, and Presentation Topics:

May 14/15

A Framework for Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility

- Reading: Spence & Prentice, Chps 1 and 3.
- False Advertising Mini-case Presentation
- Marketing Cigarettes Mini-case Presentation
- Sexual Harassment Mini-case Presentation

June 4/5

CSR and Stakeholder Engagement

- Reading: Spence & Prentice Chps. 3 and 4.
- Making Ethical Decisions in Hierarchies Mini-case Presentation
- Going Beyond Compliance Mini-case Presentation
- Child Labor Mini-case Presentation

June 12/13

CSR, Engagement and Culture

- Readings: Spence & Prentice, Chps. 4 & 6.
- Southland Development Mini-case Presentation
- Customs and Facilitation Payments Mini-case Presentation
- Guanxi and Gift-Giving Mini-case Presentation