



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

IB/PL300 – Business Ethics

Prof. MATTEO AMORI

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Can we look at business enterprise and interest from the perspective of good and virtuous behavior? If so, besides personal profit is there something else which provides benefits that can be shared? Generally speaking, is there a link between entrepreneurial interests and ethics, or are these unrelated or even incompatible spheres? This course attempts to present concrete answers to these questions.

Although economics is widely thought to rest on standard (and value-free) theories of rational decisions, the course aims to examine the inescapable role ethics plays in entrepreneurship through an in-depth analysis and discussion of real contexts and challenges. Students will be guided to identify and reflect on ethical issues, as they arise in some paradigmatic cases in business ethics.

Business ethics' main models will be taken into account to provide useful tools to help order and understand what is discussed. Thanks to a two-fold approach the decision process will be explored - namely from the first person and third person view -- that is from the standpoint of both key players, and from the perspective of those who are involved or affected by their successful actions (or failures).

COURSE CONTENTS

The course is designed to develop an increasing awareness of the ethical issues involved in entrepreneurial and, generally, in business activity. The initial classes will present entrepreneurship and business practices not only as value-led but also as actions which rely on a very wide and complex pattern of perspectives, motives, virtues and ideals.

Concrete planning and decision-making will then be brought into focus in order to better recognize motives, situations and dilemmas both as ethically sensitive themes and interesting incentives for business planning. Concrete cases will be introduced to improve problem-solving skills while facing ethical challenges posed by real business scenarios, and to personally weigh the effects of ethically sensitive (or insensitive) behaviors.

The lectures and discussions will pay specific attention to the ethical issues arising from the entrepreneur/manager's behaviour (accountability, decision processes, primary and secondary virtues in the inter-subjective sphere, means/ends evaluation, etc.), and the deep and complex connections between entrepreneurship and its environment, such as family, social, political, and religious communities, city, state, markets and transnational institutions.

PREREQUISITES

A background in the history of ethics may be helpful, although is not mandatory.



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METHOD OF TEACHING

Lectures, group work and in-class discussions. Qualified guest speakers will be invited.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Students are expected to regularly attend class sessions and to actively take part in class debates and case discussions;
- Students are expected to work on assigned readings;
- Students are expected to deliver group assignments.

CREDITS

6 ECTS

GRADING

Attendance and class participation	20 % of final grade
Group assignments + class presentation	20 % of final grade
Midterm test	30 % of final grade
Final written exam	30 % of final grade

COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

All the readings will be available in a course pack and the lecturer's slides will be available on Blackboard.

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Prof. Matteo Amori gained his PhD in Philosophy at the University of Rome – Tor Vergata, Italy. His research interests are classical and contemporary ethical theories and the personalistic foundation of practical behavior. Since 2005 he has worked in seminar activities at the University of Bergamo, Italy (Chair of History of Philosophy and Moral Philosophy). In 2010 he received a three-year Post-Doc research fellowship at the University of Bergamo where he focused on Social Ethics and its foundational concepts. In 2013 he started a counseling activity for the development of new models and practices in collaborative enterprises and organization design (Logotel S.p.a., Milan). In 2014 he gained the National Academic Qualification as Associate Professor in Moral Philosophy.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

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