Business Ethics

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Course aims

The course will enable students to recognize, analyze, and apply ethical reasoning in business issues; it will also aim to strengthen their ability to appropriately respond to, and provide, leadership regarding ethical issues in complex and dynamic corporate environments. The course will illustrate the major themes and approaches in business ethics, from a historical and theoretical perspective, and their connections with social responsibilities. A special focus will concern the impacts of the digital revolution on business ethics and the increasing interactions between business and digital ethics.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:
1. recognize ethical issues in business and analyze/apply different ethical approaches to business issues in complex and global contexts;
2. develop self-awareness about one's personal ethics and the capability to harmonize it with other moral visions in complex business environments;
3. interpret ethics rules as related to specific business situations;
4. demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to articulate ethical reasoning and conclusions in business contexts, and examine the consequences of unethical and ethical business decision;
5. discuss and adapt to scenarios of interactions between business and digital ethics.

Course content

The meaning and relevance of business ethics; Business ethics and corporate social responsibility: relations and differences; Ethical theories: deontological, rights-based, and consequentialist approaches; Institutionalization of business ethics, ethical culture, and codes of ethics; Ethical decision-making and leadership: individual and organizational factors; Whistleblowing; Globalization and sustainability of ethical decision-making; The digital world: business ethics and digital ethics.

Reading list

Suggested book:

> FERRELL, FRAEDRICH, & FERRELL, Business Ethics: Ethical Decision Makings & Cases, 10th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2015.

Reading materials for attending students will be made available online on the teacher's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/.

Teaching method

The module encompasses lectures, class discussions, videos, presentations of case studies, invited experts' contributions (in presence and remote mode). The format of the course is essentially interactive: attendance and active participation in the class are strongly recommended.

Assessment method and criteria

Grades for attending students will be assessed through intermediate assignments, a final written exam, and active participation in the class. The calculation of the final grade has the following components:
- Intermediate assignments: 50%.
- Final written exam: 40%.
- Active participation in the class: 10%

Students not attending the course will contact the instructor to define the reading materials and will be evaluated through a written exam.

Notes and prerequisites

Information on office hours available on the instructor's personal page at http://docenti.unicatt.it/.