BUSINESS ETHICS :: Course Outline

Lecture 1: Introduction
- what is ethics? An overview of types of ethics, giving a context for business ethics
- outline relevance of business ethics within context of global society
- overview of course topics
* Questionnaire to fuel brief discussion at end of session
* Handout containing resource list for course (incl. relevant internet links)

Lecture 2: Utilitarian Ethics
- an outline of Bentham’s basic theory of utility
- evaluation of the various forms of utilitarianism that have been proposed since
* application: Triage
* exercise: Discussion of benefits/disadvantages of utilitarianism

Lecture 3: Deontological Ethics
- core concepts of Kantianism explained
- evaluation of deontology compared with utilitarianism
* application: sketch of moral dilemma
* exercise: in groups, debate Deontology v. Utilitarianism based on dilemma

Lecture 4: Virtue Theory
- basic concepts underlying virtue theory
* application: codes of ethical conduct
* exercise: in groups, brainstorm own code of ethics followed by brief report from each group

Lecture 5: Theories of Justice
- Rawls’ Theory of Justice (liberal egalitarian) and Baker et al’s broader theory of equality of condition
- examination of economic justice, focusing on the role of big business and entrepreneurs
* group discussion: what kind of changes would be needed to implement equality of condition in the business world?

Lecture 6: Ethical Relationships in Business & Social Responsibility
- employer-employee relationship: management structures, loyalty rewards, work conditions and facilities, unfair dismissal, sexual harassment
- company-consumer relationship: honesty in advertising, value for money, after-sales care
- relationship between business and the community (local and global)
- look at aims and responsibilities of business, long-term benefits of ethical business
* discussion: Sustainable Business for sustainable world?
Lecture 7: Ethical Styles – The Gender Debate
- justice vs. care (Kohlberg vs. Gilligan)
- examination of question, are ethics of justice and ethics of care exclusive or complimentary, and the role of reason and emotion in business
* application: Thomas I. White’s termination scenario
* exercise: vote and class discussion about the role of female and male ethics in business

Lecture 8: The Corporation
- view extract of film, The Corporation
* exercise: discussion of main issues and themes highlighted in extract and possibility of change in the corporate culture?

Lecture 9: Course Review
- brief review of lectures
- essay preparation
- essay topics distributed