

## 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