

Fall 2020

Brooklyn College Philosophy Department

PHIL 3314 MW9A: Moral Issues in Business

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30-11AM

Instructor Contact Info



Mariya Gluzman

Adjunct Lecturer, Philosophy Department

mgluzman@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Be sure to ALWAYS include your course title and section (PHIL 3314 MW9A) in your email subject. Otherwise, your email may remain unanswered for some time.



Office hours will take place via Zoom videoconferencing software, unless otherwise specified.

Scheduled office hours are Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00-11:45 AM.

[This link](#) will add all scheduled office hour meetings to your calendar.

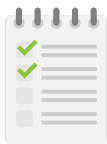
If you cannot make it to office hours, we can schedule an appointment. All appointment requests should be submitted by email.

Course Intro



Can business be ethical? Should business decisions be guided by ethical considerations? If so, what kind of moral principles should inform ethical standards for business? We will attempt to answer these and other questions pertaining to the conduct of individuals and groups involved in commerce.

Learning Objectives



By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Recognize, create, and evaluate basic arguments.
2. Define, analyze, and compare different moral theories and ethical models.
3. Justify moral opinions using appropriate moral theories and models.
4. Present and critique case studies using relevant moral theories and

models.

Required Materials

This is an Open Educational Resources (OER) course. All required materials are located within the course either as hyperlinks to outside sources or as PDF and other files.

Each Course Unit contains all necessary materials. There is also a list of all readings available in the syllabus.

Check out the Course FAQs page on Blackboard for more information about the course.

Course Grade



GRADE BREAKDOWN

50% - COLLABORATION

25% - TESTS/QUIZZES/ASSIGNMENTS

25% - 2-PART FINAL EXAM (CUMULATIVE)



COLLABORATION & PEER-PRODUCTION

Much work in this course will be completed in a collaborative fashion. There will be group wikis, group discussion, group worksheet assignments, breakout room assignments during synchronous sessions, as well as a peer-produced multimedia project.

The peer-produced multimedia project will take the form of a narrated slide show, a video blog, a TEDTalk style video, or a live presentation using videoconferencing software (e.g. Zoom). Once available, the assignment specs will provide all the necessary information. Groups will be expected to check in regularly to report their progress and receive guidance if needed.

Expect your grade to reflect not only how well or how poorly your team performs but your personal contribution to the group's work.

Be sure to check both your group section as well as announcements often to make sure you don't miss any team assignments.



TESTS & EXAMS

There will be different kinds of assignments and tests throughout the semester as well as a two-part final exam.

Short quizzes: there will be a time limit on these selected-response (i.e. multiple choice, true-false, etc.) quizzes as well as a limited amount of time to submit them. Expect to complete 4 to 6 quizzes, with the lowest grade dropped off.

Short written response: these will be in the form of the muddiest point tests ([follow this link to learn about this type of assessment](#)).

Mini case studies: there will be different case studies assigned throughout the semester. Each mini case study will have its own specs. You can submit them in written form using a Blackboard Assignment feature OR as a video submission using FlipGrid.

Two-part final exam: the final exam will consist of a longer selected-response type exam with a time limit as well as a written case study of the student's choice. More information will be available later in the semester.

Course Policies



ATTENDANCE

This is a synchronous course with regularly-scheduled class meetings. All class meetings will take place via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra (or Zoom if Bb gets choppy). Students are expected to attend every class session and attendance will be taken. Missing a class meeting or attending more than 15 minutes late will carry a 1-point penalty subtracted from your course grade. Additionally, missing a whole or a part of a meeting can also mean that you miss collaborative work with your partners, which can affect your grade as well.

All that said, you can miss up to two class meetings without a 1-point penalty. No questions asked. However, if you happen to miss group work, your grade can still be affected slightly.

If there is a legitimate reason for your absence or tardiness, such as technical problems, scheduling conflict, etc., it is your responsibility to notify me of the date and reason for the absence.



MISSING WORK

Most assessments in this course will be pre-scheduled and have a fairly generous completion window. If you keep on top of the deadlines and check Announcements and the Course Calendar regularly, there is really no reason why you would miss a deadline.

All that said, there may be circumstances that prevent you from submitting your work in a timely manner, such as technical difficulties (which must be documented with a screenshot), work schedule, etc. Once you realize that you are either about to miss a deadline or have just missed it, please, email me right away so we could figure out if and how the work could be made up.

Quizzes can only be made up if they were missed for a legitimate reason. Once the deadline for a quiz elapses, there is no way to complete it.

Other work may be submitted with a late penalty, but ONLY if you notify me as close to the elapsed deadline as possible. Emailing me 2 days after you missed an assignment without a legitimate reason for missing it will almost guarantee that you would not be able to make it up. So please, mind the deadlines.

School Policies



UNIVERSITY'S POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations, students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

OTHER ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Consult the Brooklyn College Bulletin for a complete listing of academic regulations of the College.

Bibliography

This bibliography contains ALL of the required materials in this course arranged sequentially in course units. Please, see the Course Calendar and Announcements in Blackboard for all scheduled assignments. (Keep in mind that units also contain additional materials in Supplemental Resources folders.)

Unit 1: Logic & Reasoning

How to Argue - Philosophical Reasoning: Crash Course Philosophy #2, 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKEhdsnKKHs&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&t=0s>

Salmon, Wesley C. "Ch. 1: The Scope of Logic." In *Logic*. United States: Prentice Hall, 1984.

<http://www.ditext.com/salmon/logic.html>.

Unit 2: Morality & Ethics

Brusseau, James. *The Business Ethics Workshop*. Open Textbook Library, Saylor, 2012.

https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_the-business-ethics-workshop/index.html.

(Chapters 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)

Byars, Stephen M, Kurt Stanberry, and OpenStax College. "1.2 Ethics and Profitability - Business Ethics | OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019.

<https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/1-2-ethics-and-profitability>.

Velasquez, Manuel, Thomas Shanks, Claire Andre, Thomas Shanks, and Michael J. Meyer. "What Is Ethics?" *Issues in Ethics*, Provided by Markkula Center Santa Clara University Center of Applied Ethics, IIE V1, no. N1 (January 1987).

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/what-is-ethics/>.

A Framework for Ethical Decision Making, 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53fw6jOG7RI&feature=youtu.be>.

A Framework for Ethical Decision Making, 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53fw6jOG7RI&feature=youtu.be>.

Metaethics: Crash Course Philosophy #32, 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOoffXFpAIU>.

Relativism: Is It Wrong to Judge Other Cultures? | A-Z of ISMs Episode 18 - BBC Ideas, 2019.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=518FR6SbY_k.

Velasquez, Manuel, Thomas Shanks, Claire Andre, Thomas Shanks, and Michael J. Meyer. "Ethical Relativism", *Issues in Ethics*, Provided by Markkula Center Santa Clara University Center of Applied Ethics (August 1992).

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/ethical-relativism/>

———. "2.4 Utilitarianism: The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number - Business Ethics | OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019.

<https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/2-4-utilitarianism-the-greatest-good-for-the-greatest-number>.

Tardi, Carla. "Utilitarianism Defined." Investopedia. Accessed August 7, 2020.

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/u/utilitarianism.asp>.

Jacobs, Julian D. "Utilitarianism and the Market Economy." *Brown Political Review*, April 12, 2017. <https://brownpoliticalreview.org/2017/04/utilitarianism-market-economy/>.

THE ETHICS CENTRE. "Ethics Explainer: What Is Deontology?," February 17, 2016.

<https://ethics.org.au/ethics-explainer-deontology/>.

———. "2.5 Deontology: Ethics as Duty - Business Ethics | OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*,

2019. <https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/2-5-deontology-ethics-as-duty>.

THE ETHICS CENTRE. "Ethics Explainer: What Are Virtue Ethics?," February 16, 2016.

<https://ethics.org.au/ethics-explainer-virtue-ethics/>.

Unit 3: Corporate Social Responsibility

Ethics Defined: Corporate Social Responsibility, 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51-PtVkYdrY>.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Practical Perspectives by Thomas Beschoner, 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9lyDvKxADU>.

Carroll, Archie B. "Carroll's Pyramid of CSR: Taking Another Look." *International Journal of Corporate Social Responsibility* 1, no. 1 (July 5, 2016): 3.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40991-016-0004-6>.

Friedman, Fulton. "A Friedman Doctrine-- The Social Responsibility Of Business Is to Increase Its Profits." *The New York Times*, September 13, 1970, sec. Archives.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1970/09/13/archives/a-friedman-doctrine-the-social-responsibility-of-business-is-to.html>.

Omnex, Inc. "Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR Models." Omnex, inc. Accessed August 7, 2020. https://www.omnex.com/sustainability/milton_friedman_csr.html.

Lumen Learning. "Reading: Stakeholder Theory and Corporate Social Responsibility | Introduction to Business." Introduction to Business: Course Module. Accessed August 7, 2020.

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/baycollege-introbusiness/chapter/stakeholder-theory-and-corporate-social-responsibility/>.

Unit 4: Employee Rights

KnowledgEquity-Support for CPA. *Rights Theory*, 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6ZIMF1Ma5k&feature=youtu.be>.

Byars, Stephen M, Kurt Stanberry, and OpenStax College. "6 What Employers Owe Employees - Introduction - Business Ethics | OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019.

<https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/6-1-the-workplace-environment-and-working-conditions>.

Gallagher, John A. "Employment At Will: The Most Misunderstood Workplace Principle." TLNT. April 2013.

<https://www.tlnt.com/employment-at-will-the-most-commonly-misunderstood-workplace-principle/>

Byars, Stephen M, Kurt Stanberry, and OpenStax College. "6.1 The Workplace Environment and Working Conditions - Business Ethics | OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019.

<https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/6-1-the-workplace-environment-and-working-conditions>.

Occupational Safety and Health Act by Gregg Learning, 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cB9W1yigWyc&feature=youtu.be>.

Byars, Stephen M, Kurt Stanberry, and OpenStax College. "6.2 What Constitutes a Fair Wage - Business Ethics | OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019.

<https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/6-2-what-constitutes-a-fair-wage>.

Byars, Stephen M, Kurt Stanberry, and OpenStax College. "6.3 An Organized Workforce - Business Ethics | OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019.

<https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/6-3-an-organized-workforce>.

Byars, Stephen M, Kurt Stanberry, and OpenStax College. "6.4 Privacy in the Workplace - Business Ethics | OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019.

<https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/6-4-privacy-in-the-workplace>.

Discrimination: Crash Course Philosophy #41, 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RslDtV4jWA0&feature=youtu.be>.

Sex Discrimination: Crash Course Government and Politics #30, 2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uFh4GTZH-U&feature=youtu.be>.

Knowing Your Rights: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, 2017.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_7VTt87mTk&feature=youtu.be.

Murad, Khadija. "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace." National Conference of State Legislatures. Accessed August 7, 2020.

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/sexual-harassment-in-the-workplace.aspx>.

Andre, Claire, Tim Mazur, and Manuel Velasquez. "Affirmative Action: Twenty-Five Years of Controversy." Markkula Center for Applied Ethics: Santa Clara University. Accessed August 7, 2020.

<https://www.scu.edu/mcae/publications/ie/v5n2/affirmative.html>.

Unit 5: Employee Responsibilities

Brusseau, James. "7.2 Third-Party Obligations". *The Business Ethics Workshop*. Open Textbook Library, Saylor, 2012.

https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_the-business-ethics-workshop/s11-02-third-party-obligations-tattli.html

Schmitz, Andy. "19.1 Agency Theory - Principals and Agents". *Introduction to Economic Analysis*. Open Textbook Library, Saylor, 2012.

https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_introduction-to-economic-analysis/s20-agency-theory.html

Ethics Defined: Fiduciary Duty, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNoKMffph3o>.

Chappelow, Jim. "Principal-Agent Problem Definition." Investopedia. Accessed August 7, 2020.

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/principal-agent-problem.asp>.

Walter, Charles, and Edward P. Richards. "Employment Obligations." The Climate Change and Public Health Law Site. Accessed August 7, 2020.

<https://biotech.law.lsu.edu/IEEE/dut101.htm>.

BusinessDictionary.com. "What Are Duties of Employees? Definition and Meaning." Accessed August 7, 2020. <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/duties-of-employees.html>.

Byars, Stephen M, Kurt Stanberry, and OpenStax College. "7.1 Loyalty to the Company-Business Ethics-OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019. <https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/7-1-loyalty-to-the-company>.

EG Module 1 - Attributes of a Profession, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISKfu6H8I6Y>.

Center For The Study Of Ethics In The Professions-Illinois Institute of Technology. "Professional Ethics." Accessed August 7, 2020. <http://ethics.iit.edu/teaching/professional-ethics>.

Organizing for Effective Advocacy | Community Tool Box. "Chapter 31. Conducting Advocacy Research | Section 8. Acting as a Watchdog." Accessed August 7, 2020. <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/advocacy-research/act-as-watchdog/main>.

Unit 6: Environment & Sustainability

Gore, Al. *What Comes after An Inconvenient Truth?* Accessed August 7, 2020. https://www.ted.com/talks/al_gore_what_comes_after_an_inconvenient_truth.

Optimy Wiki. "Corporate Environmental Responsibility," April 17, 2019. <https://wiki.optimy.com/corporate-environmental-responsibility/>.

Desrochers, Pierre. "The Environmental Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits (by Creating Value within the Bounds of Private Property Rights)." *Industrial and Corporate Change* 19, no. 1 (February 1, 2010): 161–204. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icc/dtp046>.

Gunningham, Neil. "Enforcing Environmental Regulation." *Journal of Environmental Law* 23, no. 2 (July 1, 2011): 169–201. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jel/eqr006>.

Williamson, Bryan C. "Do Environmental Regulations Really Work? | The Regulatory Review." *The Regulatory Review*, University of Pennsylvania (blog), November 24, 2016. <https://www.theregreview.org/2016/11/24/williamson-do-environmental-regulations-really-work/>

Wood, Jonathan. "The Problem With Environmental Regulation." *PERC* (blog), October 9, 2019. <https://www.perc.org/2019/10/09/the-problem-with-environmental-regulation/>.

Ferris, Ann, Ann Wolverton, Alex Marten, and Richard Garbaccio. "Working Paper: The Impacts of Environmental Regulation on the U.S. Economy." Reports and Assessments. US EPA, July 28, 2017. <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/working-paper-impacts-environmental-regulation-us-economy>.

Aragón-Correa, J. Alberto, Alfred A. Marcus, and David Vogel. "The Effects of Mandatory and Voluntary Regulatory Pressures on Firms' Environmental Strategies: A Review and Recommendations for Future Research." *Academy of Management Annals* 14, no. 1 (November 21, 2019): 339–65. <https://doi.org/10.5465/annals.2018.0014>.

Byars, Stephen M, Kurt Stanberry, and OpenStax College. "4.2-Sustainability: Business and the Environment-Business Ethics-OpenStax." In *Business Ethics*, 2019.
<https://openstax.org/books/business-ethics/pages/4-2-sustainability-business-and-the-environment>.

Zu, Liangrong. "Sustainable Production and Consumption." In *Encyclopedia of Corporate Social Responsibility*, edited by Samuel O. Idowu, Nicholas Capaldi, Liangrong Zu, and Ananda Das Gupta, 2474–82. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer, 2013.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-28036-8_258.

Unit 7: Globalization

Globalization I - The Upside: Crash Course World History #41, 2012.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SnR-e0S6lc>.

Globalization II - Good or Bad?: Crash Course World History #42, 2012.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_iwrt7D5OA.

Globalization Theories | Society and Culture | MCAT | Khan Academy, 2014.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQIVIYCZ4ec&feature=youtu.be>.

Globalization and Trade and Poverty: Crash Course Economics #16, 2015.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MpVjxxpExM>.

Boatright, John R. "Globalization and the Ethics of Business." *Business Ethics Quarterly* 10, no. 1 (2000): 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3857689>.

Melé, Domènec, and Carlos Sánchez-Runde. "Cultural Diversity and Universal Ethics in a Global World." *Journal of Business Ethics* 116, no. 4 (September 1, 2013): 681–87.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-013-1814-z>.

University of Minnesota Human Rights Library. "Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights," August 13, 2003. <http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/links/norms-Aug2003.html>.

Markland, Alistair. "Human Rights Responsibilities and Transnational Corporations: How Adequate Is the Prevailing International Framework?" BA Dissertation, section 4, p. 16-21, University of Leicester, 2013.
https://www.academia.edu/29593249/Human_Rights_Responsibilities_and_Transnational_Corporations_How_Adequate_is_the_Prevailing_International_Framework.