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## SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

### Business Ethics

This is a proposed design for a course and not one I have already taught. It is to be adapted to suit nature of particular class and to be in line with the relevant department goals and guidelines.

### Course description

Usually, when we talk about morality, ethics, or right and wrong, we are talking about the actions or characters of people. Sometimes we mean groups of people, communities, societies, and so on. Sometimes we are interested in people's states of mind and at other times we are interested in the consequences of their actions. Sometimes we want to judge the character of a person or we have something to say about the norms of a certain culture. So what are we talking about when it comes to ethics in business? A corporation or a market is generally thought of as being more than just a collection of people. But what does it mean to blame or praise or hold responsible an entity that isn't a person or even a group of people? And if these entities cannot be blamed or praised or held responsible, then is some individual or some group of individuals responsible for corporations or markets? In this course, we will explore the morally salient harms and benefits associated with certain business practices, certain markets, and certain products and services. We will aim to gain a better understanding of the complexities surrounding these issues and assess the extent to which moral and political views may contribute to our judgments on these matters.

	Topic	Reading
1	Introduction: Why do we need to do philosophy? And what is this class all about?	Philosopher's toolkit (provided by instructor) Whitbeck, C. (1996) <i>Doing Justice to Moral Problems</i>
2	Does ethics have anything to do with business?	Sen, A. (1993) <i>Does Business Ethics Make Economic Sense?</i>
3	Should businesses protect the interests of women or families?	Slaughter, A. (2012) <i>Why Women Still Can't Have It All</i>
4	What role can individuals play in the economy?	Selections from Nussbaum, M. (2013) <i>Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach</i>
5	Can markets protect women?	Liberto, H (2013) <i>Noxious Markets Versus Noxious Gift Relationships</i>
6	Do individuals or businesses have	Mazar, Amir, Ariely (2008) <i>The Dishonesty</i>

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	a moral obligation to be honest?	of Honest People: A Theory of Self-Concept Maintenance
7	What is the purpose of businesses?	Kahneman, D. (2006) <i>Would You Be Happier If You Were Richer?</i>
8	Globalization: what are the moral challenges?	Gould, C. (2010) <i>Moral Issues in Globalization</i>
9	Should businesses protect the environment?	Selections from: Newton, L. (2005) <i>Business Ethics and the Natural Environment</i>
10	Movie(s) and a break from reading	<i>Food Inc.</i> (2008) and/or <i>The True Cost</i> (2015)
11	Theory: Libertarianism	Srinivasan, A (2013) <i>Dependents of the State</i> Selections from: Nozick, R. (1974) <i>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</i>
12	Theory: Socialism	Selections from: Wright, Levine, and Sober (2003) <i>Marxism and Methodological Individualism</i>
13	Theory: Liberalism	Selections from: Rawls, J. (1985) <i>Justice as Fairness</i>
14	Case study	Etieyibo, E. (2011) <i>The Ethics of Privatisation in Nigeria</i>
15	Conclusion - what did we learn?	

<b>Component</b>	<b>Portion of grade</b>
Attendance and completion of written reflections	5+10%
Short paper	20%
Presentation/exam (depending on class size)	25%
Long paper, including topic proposal and draft (depending on class size)	40%