

IB3E6-15 Ethical Issues in Contemporary Business

24/25

Department

Warwick Business School

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Demetris Hadjimichael

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This is an elective module available for WBS and non-WBS students.

- Introduce students to basic theories of ethics and politics.
- Engage students with a range of ethical challenges faced by contemporary business and other organisations in the practices of their activities and operations.
- Enable students to apply theories of ethics to contemporary issues faced by business and other organisations.
- Enable students to engage with and critically reflect upon ethical choices and dilemmas by engaging in a team based project work which requires them to deal practically with ethical concerns.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

- Introduce students to basic theories of ethics and politics.
- Engage students with a range of ethical challenges faced by contemporary business and

other organisations in the practices of their activities and operations.

- Enable students to apply theories of ethics to contemporary issues faced by business and other organisations.
- Enable students to engage with and critically reflect upon ethical choices and dilemmas by engaging in a team based project work which requires them to deal practically with ethical concerns.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Introduction to business ethics and contemporary ethical dilemmas

How narratives, habits and non-reflectiveness affect ethics in organizations

Utilitarian ethics and organizations

Kantian ethics and organizations

Virtue ethics and organizations

Freedom and rights: liberalism and egalitarianism

Marx, commodity fetishism and inhumane working conditions

Feminist Ethics

Ethics and Emotions in Organisations

The future of work; effective labour

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of core theories of ethics.
- Understand key contemporary ethical issues faced by businesses and organisations.
- Utilise critical thinking skills in analyzing ethical dilemmas elicited/explored with the research project
- Understand/have an experience of teamwork and research skills/activities

Indicative reading list

Sandel, M. (2010). Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? London: Penguin Books.

Gibson, K. (2012). Ethics and Business: An Introduction Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sandhu, Martin (2011) Just Business: Arguments in Business Ethics. London: Pearson Hall.

Subject specific skills

Apply ethical theories to analyse critically contemporary ethical issues faced by businesses and other organisations.

Understand current organizational responses (practices, procedures, etc.) to ethical dilemmas.

Transferable skills

Demonstrate improved verbal communication skills.
Demonstrate improved written communication skills.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 2 hours (26%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Private study	48 hours (62%)
Total	77 hours

Private study description

Private Study.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time
Individual Assignment (15 CATS)	70%	51 hours
Group Video and Summary (15 CATS)	20%	15 hours
Group video and summary (500 words)		
Participation (15 CATS)	10%	7 hours

Assessment group R1

	Weighting	Study time
Individual Assignment	30%	
1500 word limit (replaces group video and participation)		
Individual Assignment	70%	

Feedback on assessment

Feedback via My.WBS.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UIBA-MN34 Law and Business Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 3 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
- UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
 - Year 3 of L100 Economics
 - Year 3 of L100 Economics
 - Year 3 of L100 Economics
- UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
 - Year 4 of L103 Economics with Study Abroad
 - Year 4 of LM1H Economics, Politics & International Studies with Study Abroad
 - Year 4 of LM1H Economics, Politics & International Studies with Study Abroad
 - Year 4 of L114 Industrial Economics with Study in Europe
- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
 - Year 3 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
 - Year 3 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
- UPHA-L1CB Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of L1CG Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of L1CH Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of L1CJ Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of L1CB Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of L1CB Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UIBA-MN31 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
- UIBA-MN32 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
 - Year 3 of MN32 Law and Business Studies (Four-Year)
 - Year 4 of MN32 Law and Business Studies (Four-Year)

- Year 5 of UIBA-MN37 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
- UIBA-MN35 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
 - Year 3 of MN35 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
 - Year 4 of MN35 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
- Year 5 of UIBA-MN36 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)
- Year 3 of UMAA-GL11 Undergraduate Mathematics and Economics
- Year 4 of UECA-GL12 Undergraduate Mathematics and Economics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)

This module is Option list G for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)