

IB9ZC-15 Behavioural Ethics

26/27

Department

Warwick Business School

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Despoina Alempaki

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The aim of this module is to provide students with insights into human behaviour that can be easily translated into actions they can take to create more ethical environments.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Building on theoretical models and empirical evidence from philosophy, economics and psychology, the module will explore various methods of measuring and evaluating ethical behaviour as well as show how people are often influenced, subconsciously, by psychological biases, organizational and social pressures, and situation factors that impact decision making and can lead to unethical action. It will familiarise students with recent research developments in behavioural ethics and the possible implications for theory and policy raised by these developments.

The module is aimed at both those who wish to follow the MSc in Behavioural and Economic Science (Economics Track) as well as those who wish to follow the MSc in Behavioural and Economic Science (Science Track).

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 Behavioural Ethics: Why ethics?

Unethical Behaviour in the Lab and the Field

Evaluating Experimental Paradigms

Unethical Behaviour and Incentives

Motivated Cognition

Deception Detection

The role of Social Norms, Culture and Institutions in Shaping Ethics

Ethical decision making in groups: Diffusion of Responsibility, Pivotality, Complicity

Organizational Ethics: Corruption, Whistleblowing, Power, Leadership

Ethics in CSR and Nudging

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of when and why people cross ethical boundaries
- Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the cutting-edge experimental approaches to study ethics
- Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the factors that lead to ethical choices not being made in isolation, but being part of social interaction
- Articulate reasoned arguments around ethics
- Use behavioural insights to create an environment which encourages more ethical behaviour
- Critically evaluate research on behavioural ethics

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

- Critically evaluate experimental data; assessing the external validity of lab findings
- Use experimental techniques appropriately for answering a research question and testing of specific hypotheses
- Critically evaluate research on behavioural ethics
- Explore and evaluate the degree to which empirical data can distinguish between competing theories

Subject specific skills

- Critically analyse the basic assumptions built into specific psychological and economic models of ethical behaviour
- Critically evaluate experimental data; assessing the external validity of lab findings
- Use experimental techniques appropriately for answering a research question and testing of specific hypotheses
- Explore and evaluate the degree to which empirical data can distinguish between competing theories

Transferable skills

- Demonstrate good communication skills when writing reports, presenting findings and structuring arguments
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Other activity	7 hours (5%)
Private study	52 hours (35%)
Assessment	71 hours (47%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Private study to include preparation for lectures and own reading

Other activity description

Workshops: 2x2 hours (week 5&9) 1x3 hours (week 8)

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 A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Essay	40%	29 hours	Yes (extension)
Essay on a topic related to ethics 2000 words			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Class test 1	20%	14 hours	No
Short answer questions based on topics covered during 4 weeks			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Class test 2	20%	14 hours	No
Short answer questions based on topics covered during 4 weeks			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Group Presentation (5 mins presentation and 15 mins discussion) and submissions of slides.	20%	14 hours	No
Students will debate a controversial ethical issue in teams. Details of the format will be discussed in class. Assessment will be based on the quality of the moral arguments provided by each team.			
Reassessment component			
Individual Assignment			Yes (extension)

Weighting **Study time** **Eligible for self-certification**

Individual Assignment 1000 words

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided both in-class during case discussion plus written feedback.

Availability

Courses

Course availability information is based on the current academic year, so it may change.

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TPSS-C8P7 Postgraduate Taught Behavioural and Economic Science (Science Track)
- Year 1 of TECS-C8P8 Postgraduate Taught Behavioural and Economics Science (Economics Track)