

BUSINESS ETHICS ONLINE

SUMMER 2025

INSTRUCTOR

Daniel John Sportiello, Ph.D.
Welder Library 103
dsportiello@umary.edu
701-355-8109

OFFICE HOURS

By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Analysis of ethical issues arising in business. Topics may include the moral implications of various economic systems (for example, free enterprise and socialism), the basis for just compensation, workplace climate and culture, and the purpose of business in relation to other human ends and needs. Prerequisites: PHI 208/308 strongly recommended.

COURSE OUTCOMES

This course asks you to do all of these:

- Examine various business-ethics issues in light of a teleological ethical perspective.
- Explain the relationship of business to other aspects of human life.

Note that, to measure your attainment of these outcomes, you must do certain assessments.

ASSESSMENTS

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on eight quizzes, in four discussions, on four tests, on a paper, and on an exam:

- Eight quizzes will determine twenty percent of your final grade. You must submit each quiz on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day.
- Four discussions will determine twenty percent of your final grade. You must contribute to each discussion on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day. You must also contribute a response to another student on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day.
- Four tests will determine twenty percent of your final grade. You must submit each test on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day.
- A paper will determine fifteen percent of your final grade. You must submit this paper on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day.
- An exam will determine twenty-five percent of your final grade. You must submit this exam on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day.

Note that, if you fail to do an assessment by the time that it is due—for any reason—then you may receive a grade of zero on that assessment. Because of this, you should not wait until the last minute to do any assessment! Note also that, to do well in these assessments, you must do certain readings.

READINGS

These readings are available in the bookstore—though you are free to buy them elsewhere:

- Manuel G. Velasquez. *Business Ethics: Concepts and Cases*. Eighth edition. New York: Pearson Education, 2018. ISBN: 978-0133842616.

Any other readings are available on Canvas.

BENEDICTINE VALUES

All six of our Benedictine Values are implicated in this course. At its heart, though, is Hospitality—that is, a sort of vulnerability to the ideas of others.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

It should go without saying that academic dishonesty of any sort is wrong. Worse than that, though, academic dishonesty reveals a serious confusion regarding the reasons that one is in a course in philosophy—or, for that matter, at a university—in the first place. Such dishonesty is occasion for as much pity as anger.

Presenting the work of another as your own is academically dishonest. Whenever you copy the words of another, therefore, you must place those words within quotation marks and cite their source. (This goes for the words of any artificial intelligence, by the way!)

As a deterrent, let me promise that I will prosecute every instance of academic dishonesty. But do not misinterpret this promise: if you feel that you do not understand something well enough to explain it in your own words—whether in this course or in any other—then come to me for help. We will work together to overcome whatever difficulty stands in your way.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course, PHI 313 01 00 DE, meets for fifteen weeks on Canvas. It is worth three credits, is an elective for the Major and Minor in Philosophy, and is graded according to the usual scale. (Note that there won't be any rounding.)

STATEMENT ON WORKLOAD

Since this is a three semester-credit undergraduate-level course lasting seven weeks, students can expect to spend a minimum of six hours a week instructional time and another twelve hours a week studying outside of instructional time.

STATEMENT ON EXCUSED ABSENCES

The University has a policy on excused absences related to sponsored or sanctioned activities and events. The policy is available for review [online](#). Students participating in such activities and events are expected to review this policy and comply with it. As long as appropriate prior notification is given according to this policy, students and faculty reach a mutual agreement concerning make-up work, and students complete the work in question, faculty shall not penalize a student for missing a class or exam when they were granted an excused absence from the university. Any questions concerning the policy may be referred to the course instructor who may refer the question to the athletic director, the student activities director, or academic affairs for an answer.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are expected to read the University of Mary's [Academic Honor Code and Honor System](#) and abide by all the standards of conduct and requirements contained therein. When a student is in doubt about whether or not an action might constitute an Academic Honor Code violation, he or she should request clarification from the instructor *before* the action in question is undertaken.

STATEMENT ON REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of Mary, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and in the spirit of our mission, offers support for disabled students who provide the required documentation. Students with disabilities who need accommodations should apply to the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#). For further information, contact Dr. Lynn Dodge, coordinator of Student Accessibility Services, in the Student Success Center. You can reach her at 701-355-8264 or ljdodge@umary.edu.

COURSE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

Students should communicate any questions or concerns relating to this course to the following individuals in the order listed below. To learn more about the University of Mary's process for responding to academic concerns, students should read its policy, which is available for review [online](#).

Dan Sportiello, Associate Professor of Philosophy > Hannah Venable, Chair of the Philosophy Program > James Peliska, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

1	Tuesday	May 6	Introduction		
	Thursday	May 8	Introduction		
2	Tuesday	May 13	Introduction		
	Thursday	May 15	Introduction		
3	Tuesday	May 20	Basic Principles	<i>Ethics</i> , § 1	Quiz 1
	Thursday	May 22	Basic Principles	<i>Ethics</i> , § 2	Quiz 2
4	Tuesday	May 27	Basic Principles		Discussion 1
	Thursday	May 29	Basic Principles		Response 1
5	Tuesday	June 3	Basic Principles		Test 1
	Thursday	June 5	The Market and Business	<i>Ethics</i> , § 3	Quiz 3
6	Tuesday	June 10	The Market and Business	<i>Ethics</i> , § 4	Quiz 4
	Thursday	June 12	The Market and Business		Discussion 2
7	Tuesday	June 17	The Market and Business		Response 2
	Thursday	June 19	The Market and Business		Test 2
8	Tuesday	June 24	Ecology and Consumers	<i>Ethics</i> , § 5	Quiz 5
	Thursday	June 26	Ecology and Consumers	<i>Ethics</i> , § 6	Quiz 6
9	Tuesday	July 1	No Class		
	Thursday	July 3	No Class		
10	Tuesday	July 8	Ecology and Consumers		Discussion 3
	Thursday	July 10	Ecology and Consumers		Response 3
11	Tuesday	July 15	Ecology and Consumers		Test 3
	Thursday	July 17	Ethics and Employees	<i>Ethics</i> , § 7	Quiz 7
12	Tuesday	July 22	Ethics and Employees	<i>Ethics</i> , § 8	Quiz 8
	Thursday	July 24	Ethics and Employees		Discussion 4

13	Tuesday	July 29	Ethics and Employees		Response 4
	Thursday	July 31	Ethics and Employees		Test 4
14	Tuesday	August 5	Conclusion		Discussion 5
	Thursday	August 7	Conclusion		Response 5
15	Tuesday	August 12	Conclusion		Paper
	Thursday	August 14	Conclusion		Exam
16	Tuesday	August 19	No Class		
	Thursday	August 21	No Class		