



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR
2001/2002

GRA 6014 International Business Ethics

Program

Master of Science (common course)

Responsible for the course

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Department

Strategy

Term

MSc: Winter

ECTS Credits

6

Objective

The aim of this course is to strengthen each participant's ability to identify, to reflect and respond to ethical management challenges in organizations. Studying ethical business dilemmas in depth will help participants to evaluate the variety of approaches available for the ethical decision-making process.

Prerequisites

None.

Compulsory literature

Green, Ronald M. 1994. *The ethical manager: A new method for business ethics*. New York: MacMillan.

Dienhart, John W. 1999. *Business, institutions, and ethics: A text with cases and readings*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Carroll, Stephen J. and Martin J. Gannon. 1997. *Ethical dimensions of international management*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage.

Additional articles and cases will be handed out. (preferably via webpage)

Recommended literature

None.

Course outline

The theoretical core consists of a brief presentation of major moral philosophies which have provided the core of rules and concepts of rightness and ethicalness in general. The focus is on their relevance with regard to the business environment. The practical core deals with applying and testing different methods of moral decision making in conjunction with concrete cases. Most of the case material will be based on international examples, but current Norwegian experiences will also be included where possible. Special attention will be given to business ethics decision-making in a cross cultural context. The focus will be on issues of the relationship of national cultural differences to ethical behaviors. Critical reading and evaluation of leading articles on ethics in management will be used to heighten participants awareness of significant cultural perceptions, and different moral points of view.

Topics include:

- Basic issues: Ethics vs. Economics
- Ethical Theories Revisited
- Examples of Models for Ethical Reflection
- The Role of Opportunity and Conflict in Organizations
- Business Ethics in a Global Context (importance of culture)
- Ethics in Changing Organizations (compliance vs. integrity approaches)
- Strategic Planning and Ethics

The learning mode of this course is action oriented. Virtually every topic will begin with a prepared case discussion allowing participants to apply moral reasoning skills. The subsequent discussions will not necessarily yield consensus, but are meant to create greater awareness of different thinking modes. For the above reasons this course requires maximum student participation. Those who cannot attend classes regularly should refrain from taking this course.

Computer-based tools

None.

Course structure

30 hours with lectures and class discussion.

Evaluation

One mid term paper, group assignment (40%)

Final term paper (groups of 1-3) (40%)

Participation in class (20%)

Evaluation code(s)

GRA60141

Aids at the examination

All

Makeup exam

not possible because of combined grades