



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/2006

SIV 6600 Introduction to Ethical Dilemmas

Program

Bachelor of Science in Business (3. year).

Responsible for the course

Heidi Høivik

Department

Strategy and Logistics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Objective

The course permits students to think about morality within the context of moral theories in philosophy, the arts, and business life. The objectives are twofold: 1) to give students an introduction to the important role of ethics in business and 2) to exemplify the ethical ambiguities in business practice by studying selected narratives from literature and movies.

The choice of narratives instead of the more common business case studies increases students' sensitivity as to how, where and why value conflicts arise in different socio-economic settings. The use of narratives provides a rich backdrop from which to view the place of morality in business, society and personal life. Business decisions have ramifications beyond the organization, and events outside the organization affect organizational decisions. Standard case studies cannot adequately portray this complex and real interaction. Well written and filmed narratives provide information on characters as employees, managers, lawyers, consultants, journalists, community members, spouses, parents and other human beings with conflicting desires, drives, and ambitions. The narratives/movies chosen are not chosen to explain as a theory explains, but to involve the students in a way of life in order to further personal growth.

Prerequisites

None

Compulsory literature

Books:

Chryssides, George D. and John Kaler. 1993. An introduction to business ethics. London: Chapman & Hall

Høivik, Heidi von Weltzien. 2002. Moral leadership in action: building and sustaining moral competence in European organizations. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

Recommended literature

Books:

Bowie, Norman, red.. 2002. The Blackwell guide to business ethics. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell

Course outline

- Ethics and Education: "The Dead Poet's Society" (film)
- Ethics and the Law "Class Action" (film)
- Ethical theories revisited (From Aristotle to Rawls)
- Barriers to Ethics: "The Great Gatsby" (film)
- Ethics and Integrity "The Insider" (film)
- Ethics in the Work Place "The Working Girl" (film)
- Management Responsibilities: "Other People's Money" (film)
- Ethics and Consultancy: "Othello" (film)
- Ethics and Power: "The Firm" (film)

Computer-based tools

None

Course structure

The program consists of 36 contact hours. (English).

Evaluation

48 hour home exam (1-3 students)

Evaluation code(s)

SIV 66001

Aids at the examination

All written aids allowed.

Makeup exam

Continuation according to special agreement