



Kuwait University
College of Business Administration
Public Administration Department



Course Syllabus
Spring 2021-2022
Prof. Awadh Alenezi
PA 307 – Business Ethics and Society

Lecture Time and Location:

PA 307/01 : M & W

TIME 14:00 – 15:15

Room # B1/1020/^{2nd} floor

Contact Information:

Location : Department of Public Administration floor 3, Office B3/1043

Email : Prof.awadh1@gmail.com

Office Hours : 13-14

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Course Description:

The course focuses upon the exploration and analysis of ethical, political, technological, social, legal, and regulatory environments of business. It is designed to investigate the broad spectrum of business & society and business ethics issues that managers face today and will face in the future. As business organizations struggle to find their social and ethical identity in a business environment that grows increasingly complex, managers are confronted with exceedingly difficult challenges in balancing their economic, legal, and ethical responsibilities to the variety of stakeholder groups with which they interact. This course addresses these challenges from individual, organizational, managerial, and societal perspectives. Topics will include the role of the corporations in society; business and government in a global society; impacts of technological and social changes; building relationships with a variety of stakeholders; and business and ethical considerations.

Course Learning Objectives:

After the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Understand how business and society affect each other and recognize the relationship between business and all stakeholders within the society.
2. Comprehend the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), what it means, how it started, advantages and disadvantages of CSR, and current trends in CSR.
3. Learn how to recognize ethical dilemmas, know when and why they occur, and how to implement safeguards that could curtail ethical problems in the workplace.
4. Analyze ethical problems and applying techniques on a real-world case study involving an ethical dilemma and allow them to use their analytical skills and make a well supported business decision.



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CLO Mapping to CBA Skill Based Competency Goals¹

CLO	Analytical	Communication	Information Technology	Business Ethics
1				
2				
3	I			I
4	I	A		I

Type of Emphases:

- **(I)ntroduce:** Students will be introduced to the skill and their grasp of it assessed in the course.
- **(A)pply:** The course will not cover the skill. Students should have a high-level grasp of the skill and are required to apply it in the course.
- **(R)einforce:** Students should have an introductory-level grasp of the skill and the course will improve their mastery to a higher level.

Required Material:

Textbook → Lawrence, A.T. & Weber, J. (2017). *Business & Society: Stakeholders, Ethics, Public Policy* 15th Edition, McGraw-Hill/Irwin

Additional Materials:

Other course material that we will use throughout the course, including course PPT Slides will be available on our class page on Microsoft teams.

Course Requirements and Policies:

The schedule of topics that we will cover throughout the course is attached below. Teaching/learning methods used in this course include lectures, class discussions, discussing real-life examples and contemporary issues, and other assignments. You must be prepared for each class by reading the required material. You may be assigned to a group, where you will be required to discuss an ethical dilemma and how to resolve it; you also could be assigned to a group to discuss any specific topic or case that we will cover in class. Class participation is essential for the learning outcome because it will foster a better understanding for the concepts and topics that we will cover throughout the course.

The course requirements are as follows:

¹ CBA Competency Goals can be found at the end of this document



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- **Three Exams:** There will be two midterms and a final exam. Exams will be based on the material that we will cover during the semester. The FINAL EXAM IS COMPREHENSIVE. The dates of the exams are in the table below. **However, the instructor retains the right to change the dates.**
- **Assignments:** there will be various assignments throughout the semester. The assignments will help you understand the material and tie the concepts.
- **Case Study:** there will be a real-world case study involving an ethical dilemma requiring students to use their analytical skills to solve an ethical business problem and make a well supported business decision.
- **Class Participation:** in class participation and case discussions will help make a more interesting and successful class. It is necessary that each student to be committed to the “4 Ps” of student involvement for the course to be more successful: *preparation, presence, promptness, and participation*. Appropriate class etiquette is part of effective participation. Brining in “current examples and events” is an easy way to participate in class. Active students in class might receive a bonus at the end of the semester.
- **Class Attendance:** Class attendance is required, and students are expected to attend class regularly. Missing classes will affect your grade. A student who incurs an excessive number of absences may be withdrawn from a class at the discretion of the professor and in accordance to the class attendance policy of the university. If a situation arises that would cause you to miss class, please notify the professor in advance through any available mean of communication. It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements regarding any missed materials or assignments.

Important Dates:

Important Dates	Event	Notes
TBA	Midterm 1	Time & place TBA
TBA	Last day to drop a course	
TBA	Midterm 2	Time & place TBA
TBA	Last day of classes	
13/06/2022	Final (comprehensive)	8 to 10 am

Note: the instructor retains the right to change the dates.



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Grading:

The scores in this course will be the weighted average of the following items:

Weight	Description
10%	Attendance & Participation
10%	Assignments
20%	Exam 1
20%	Exam 2
40%	Final Exam 8-10 , 13/6/2022
100%	TOTAL

Cheating and Plagiarism: Every student in this course must abide by the Kuwait University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism (published in the Student Guide, Chapter 3, Section 2). A copy of the student guide can be accessed online on:

http://www.kuniv.edu/cs/groups/ku/documents/ku_content/kuw055940.pdf

Please carefully note all sources and assistance when you turn in your work. Under no circumstances should you take credit for work that is not yours. You should neither receive nor give any unauthorized assistance on any deliverable. If you have any questions about what constitutes “unauthorized assistance” please email me before the deliverable is submitted.

Grade Distribution:

Grade	Range
A	≥ 95
A-	≥ 90 and < 95
B+	≥ 87 and < 90
B	≥ 83 and < 87
B-	≥ 80 and < 83
C+	≥ 77 and < 80
C	≥ 73 and < 77
C-	≥ 70 and < 73
D+	≥ 65 and < 70
D	≥ 60 and < 65
F	< 60



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Course Outline:

Topics	Reading for the week
Introduction to course; Business in Society: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The corporation and its stakeholders.	Chapter 1
Business in Society: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Social Responsibility & citizenship	Chapter 3
Business and its Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Community and the Corporation	Chapter 18
Business and Ethics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethics and Ethical Reasoning	Chapter 5
Business and Ethics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizational Ethics	Chapter 6
Ethical Dilemmas and How to Resolve them	Handout
Business and Public Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business – Government Relations	Chapter 7
Stockholder Rights & Corporate Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stockholders pp. 279 – 283• Corporate Governance pp. 283 – 286• Social Investment pp. 293 – 295• Government Protection of Shareholder Interests pp. 295-298	Chapter 13
Consumer Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The rights of consumers pp. 304-305• Reasons for Consumer Movement pp. 306• How Government Protect Consumer Rights pp. 307-309	Chapter 14
Employees and the Corporation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work Place Rights pp. 327-336• Electronic Monitoring pp. 337-338• Whistle Blowing and Free Speech in Workplace pp. 341-343	Chapter 15



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CBA Competency Goals

1. **Analytical Competency:** A CBA graduate will be able to use analytical skills to solve business problems and make a well-supported business decision.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 1.1. Use appropriate analytical techniques to solve a given business problem.
- 1.2. Critically evaluate multiple solutions to a business problem.
- 1.3. Make well-supported business decisions.

2. **Communication Competency:** A CBA graduate will be able to communicate effectively in a wide variety of business settings.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 2.1. Deliver clear, concise, and audience-centered presentations.
- 2.2. Write clear, concise, and audience-centered business documents.

3. **Information Technology Competency:** A CBA graduate will be able to utilize Information Technology for the completion of business tasks.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 3.1. Use data-processing tools to analyze or solve business problems.

4. **Ethical Competency:** A CBA graduate will be able to recognize ethical issues present in business environment, analyze the tradeoffs between different ethical perspectives, and make a well-supported ethical decision.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 4.1. Identify the ethical dimensions of a business decision.
- 4.2. Recognize and analyze the tradeoffs created by application of competing ethical perspectives.
- 4.3. Formulate and defend a well-supported recommendation for the resolution of an ethical issue.

5. **General Business Knowledge:** A CBA graduate will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the main business disciplines' concepts and theories.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 5.1. Acquire a fundamental understanding of knowledge from the main business disciplines (e.g. finance, accounting, marketing, and management information systems, among others).