MNO2707 Business Ethics
AY2024/2025 Semester 2

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Department:	Management & Organization
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Time:	Biweekly

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores ethical issues and challenges in business and organizations. Topics include various normative and descriptive models of ethical decision-making, differences in individual- and organizational-factors that influence ethical judgment and decisions. Class meetings will consist of lectures, in-class activities, as well as presentations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
- better recognise and be more aware of ethical issues at work
- make better ethical judgments and decisions
- understand how to manage ethical conduct in business and organizational settings

ASSESSMENTS

Component	Weightage
Class participation	15
Individual assignment	25
(attendance)	(10)
(three Canvas assignments)	(15)
Individual final essay	35
Team project	25
Total	**100%**

Class participation (15% of course grade)
Much of the knowledge you will gain in this class will come from other students—from hearing, evaluating, and discussing ideas. Participation in class is, therefore, a key component of the learning experience in class, and I expect you to contribute to class discussion whenever you have something interesting and constructive to say (e.g., bring in good examples from current events, build on class concepts and others' ideas, ask thoughtful questions). I also expect you to contribute to in-class exercises. **Please bring your own name tent in every class,** for our TA to record your participation.

Individual assignment (25% of course grade)
Attendance (10%): You are expected to attend every class (arriving on time and being present for the entire session) and show respect to other students and me (without disrupting the class). For University approved reasons for absence, please email **written documentation** to your TA IN ADVANCE for approval. If your absence is approved, **submit a 1-page reflection report** based on course slides and readings to your TA before the next class. The BBA office requires us to report students who miss more than two classes in a row.

Four Canvas Assignments (15%): due before Classes 2, 3, and 4. Each submission has a weightage of 5%. Students are expected to respond to questions related to the course content. Your lowest scoring Canvas assignment will be dropped.

Individual final essay (35% of course grade)
The Final Essay will be due on 25 April (Friday) by 23:59pm. It will consist of 2 sections in a single essay submission.

Section 1. Analysis of a chosen movie/documentary (25%): I will provide 2 movies/documentaries that provide the context for the application of the concepts discussed in class. You can choose to analyze one of the two. The focus of your analysis should be the ethical issue(s) in the movie. Your essay should (a) provide a brief introduction of the ethical issue(s) you identified, (b) analyse whether characters/teams/organizations in the movie handled the ethical situation well or not well and explain why, and (c) describe potential reasons/causes for their behavior. Please apply at least *five* of the concepts discussed in class to support your analysis of the movie. However, you should focus on *depth of analysis* instead of trying to use all the concepts discussed in class.

Section 2. Self-reflection (10%): Pick 3 readings you found insightful in this course and contextualize them to yourself. For each reading, (a) start by capturing the main ideas in 1-2 paragraphs. Then, (b) apply the ideas in the readings to your own life, workplace, or planned career, or link readings together, or to other parts of our course. Find connections, ways to use the ideas in the future, or good examples of the ideas from your experience. Ideally, you will derive some novel insight or offer a non-obvious connection from the class readings.

The contents of your final essay are held confidential. The papers are only read by the professor and are not disseminated in any fashion to anyone else. More details on the final essay will be provided in class.

Team project (25% of course grade)
10-min ethical challenge: I will divide the class into project teams of about 4-5 members each. Each team should select a different recent (within the past 3 years) ethical issue/challenge faced by a company or industry in the Asia Pacific region. Sources for these issues must be reputable (e.g. the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg Week, Fortune, Forbes, CNA, Straits Times, Financial Times, Business Times etc). For the 10-min presentation, the team should (a) briefly describe the ethical issue, (b) analyse the issue using course concepts (e.g. identify contributing factors and assess the seriousness of the issue), (c) propose actionable solutions/recommendations (i.e., suggest alternative actions or necessary changes in the future). More details on the team project will be provided in class.

The deliverables for the Team Project are as follows:

Item	Due
Finalize the topic on Google Doc	**Before Class 4**
Final Presentation slides (10 min)	**Classes 5, 6**

READINGS

Articles to be announced for each week. There is no textbook assigned for this course.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Class 1   **Introduction to Ethics**

This week corrects several common myths about ethics and introduces an empirical, design-based approach to understanding ethical behavior in organizations.

Class 2   **Individual-level factors affecting ethical behavior**

This week focuses on individual processes (e.g., moral awareness) that influence ethical behavior (e.g., whistleblowing).

Class 3   **Group- and organizational-level factors affecting ethical behavior**

This week focuses on organizational formal and informal systems (e.g., ethical culture, incentives) that influence ethical behavior.

Class 4   **Normative approaches to ethics**

This week covers major normative approaches to ethics, including Deontology, Utilitarianism, and Virtue ethics, to provide students with criteria for judging right and wrong.

Class 5   **Team Project Presentations**

Class 6   **Team Project Presentations**

ACADEMIC HONESTY & PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity and honesty is essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to acknowledge the source, or falsification of information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is 'the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own' (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT do not require specialist knowledge to use. Many of these AI tools are commonly used in social media, for example, to create content and disguise and refine content created from programmes like ChatGPT. We understand that students will be drawn to using these AI Tools, as they would for any other electronic aid.

However, to be clear, normal academic rules still apply. As noted in the Code of Student Conduct:
> "*The University takes a strict view of cheating in any form, deceptive fabrication, plagiarism and violation of intellectual property and copyright laws. Any student who is found to have engaged in such misconduct is subject to disciplinary action by the University*."

With respect to AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT and image generation tools), your instructor will clarify whether the use of these tools as inputs into your assignment development process is acceptable. AI is a technology that requires skill to use, and knowledge about when and how to use it. If you use ChatGPT or any other such AI tool in your work, you must provide a proper representation of how you used the tool and what prompts you used to generate output. Failure to cite its use constitutes academic misconduct.

Further, as with any information source, be aware that minimal efforts yield low quality results. You will need to refine your work and fact check the output, as you would double-check information from any source. Further, you should be selective in how and when you use such tools instead of using it for each and every assignment you create.

To summarise:
1. Always check with your instructors on what are the permitted uses of AI tools.
2. Have a discussion at the start of a course about the use of AI.
3. Where permitted, acknowledge your use of AI.
4. You remain responsible for the quality of your work and its appropriate representation.
5. Failure to follow the above steps can lead to a concern about plagiarism (academic dishonesty).

As always. you have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard.

Additional guidance can be found at:
Admission Condition: http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/acceptance-record#NUSCodeofStudentConduct
NUS Code of Student Conduct: http://nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct
Academic Integrity Essentials: https://libguides.nus.edu.sg/new2nus/acadintegrity#s-lib-ctab-22144949-4
Guidelines on the Use of AI Tools For Academic Work: https://libguides.nus.edu.sg/new2nus/acadintegrity#s-lib-ctab-22144949-3