

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Fall 2019
Discipline:	Business
Course Number and Title:	BUS 220 Ethics in Contemporary Organizations
Division:	Lower
Faculty Name:	Brad Brown
Semester Credit Hours:	3
Teaching Days and Times:	A days, 11:10 – 12:30, Kaisersaal Starboard

Prerequisites: The standard prerequisites as listed in the CSU course catalogue - One (1) college composition course OR one (1) honors seminar – have been waived by the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Socrates said that morality is about “no small matter, but how we ought to live.” In this course we will study ethical decision making in organizations, mostly corporations. Through the study of leading philosophical, psychological, economic, and practical judgment constructs and examples, students will discover and develop their own values and habits for living and working consistent with their own values. Using textbook readings, real-world case studies, interactive exercises, and exams, students will learn to think critically and logically argue about the role and purpose of their behaviors in business and society. They will identify the risks and opportunities associated with business conduct and uncover ways to address such risks and opportunities as working professionals, identifying ways to give voice to their values and how they want to put ethics into practice in the real world, with particular attention paid to issues of sustainability and climate change. Students are encouraged to form their own views on the ethical and social responsibility of businesses. Throughout this course, students will be challenged to justify their views using sound ethical reasoning and to practice articulating their positions orally in class and through written assignments.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To have students meet and have discussions with professionals in country so that they can describe the institutions, incentives and regulations that form society and the institutions which govern resource allocations and use, and result in wealth growth and distribution. After completing this course, the successful student will be able to:

- Explain the fundamentals of normative ethics, different ethical theories, and core ethical concepts.
- Demonstrate the application of ethical theories to concrete business cases and dilemmas.

- Explain the meaning of ethical and economic aspects for individual self-identity, integrity, and personal and professional development.
- Demonstrate the relevance of ethical principles for business success and for the positive, long-term development of organizations.
- Identify and analyze ethical aspects in various business and organizational situations.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels
 TITLE: *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*
 PUBLISHER: McGraw-Hill
 ISBN #: 978-0-07-803824-2
 DATE/EDITION: 2010/ 7th edition

(Note: revisions since edition 4 have been very minor and any edition of this book will be acceptable.) Available from Amazon.com for various prices based on edition, format, and “rent vs. buy”

AUTHOR: Singer, Peter
 TITLE: *One World Now*
 PUBLISHER: Yale University Press
 ISBN #: 978-0-300-19605-4
 DATE/EDITION: 2016/ 1st edition (paperback)

Available from Amazon.com \$13.25 paperback or \$9.83 Kindle version

AUTHOR: Sandel, Michael J.
 TITLE: *What Money Can't Buy*
 PUBLISHER: Farrar, Straus and Giroux
 ISBN #:9780374533656
 DATE/EDITION: 2013/ 1st paperback edition

Available from Amazon.com \$9.98 paperback or \$9.99 Kindle version

AUTHOR: Schor, Juliet B.
 TITLE: *True Wealth: How and why millions of Americans are creating a time-rich, ecologically light, high-satisfaction economy*
 PUBLISHER: Penguin Books
 ISBN #: 978-0-14-311942-5
 DATE/EDITION: 2011 (paperback)

Available from Amazon.com \$14.95 paperback or \$5.99 Kindle version

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Class and Date	Topic	Assignment
Depart Amsterdam—September 9		
A1, Sept 11	Introduction and “What is morality?”	Rachels, Ch. 1
A2, Sept 13	“The challenge of cultural relativism” and “Subjectivism in ethics”	Rachels, Ch. 2 & 3
Gdansk, Poland, September 15 - 20		
A3, Sept 21	“Does morality depend on religion?” & “Ethical Egoism”	Rachels, Ch. 4 & 5
A4, Sept 23	“Utilitarianism”	Rachels, Ch. 7 & 8
A5, Sept 25	Kant and Deontology	Rachels, Ch. 9 & 10
Lisbon, Portugal—September 26-28		
Cadiz, Spain—September 29 - October 1		
A6, Oct 3	Other theories of ethics	Rachels, Ch. 6, 11, 12, & 13
A7, Oct 5	Quiz #1	
Dubrovnik, Croatia—October 6-10		
A8, Oct 12	Climate change lecture	No reading assignment
A9, Oct 14	Ethics of climate change	Singer, Ch. 1 & 2
Casablanca, Morocco—October 15-20		
A10, Oct 22	Ethics of global trade	Singer, Ch. 3
Oct. 24	<i>Study Day</i>	No classes
A11, Oct 25	Ethics of responding to genocide. What do we owe global humanity?	Singer, Ch. 4 & 5
A12, Oct 27	Video in class: <i>Nothing like Chocolate</i>	
Tema, Ghana—October 28-30		
Takoradi, Ghana—October 31-November 1		
A13, Nov 3	Field class reports due and discussion on material to date.	
A14, Nov 6	Quiz # 2	
A15, Nov 8	Jumping the queue	Sandel, Intro and Ch. 1
Salvador, Brazil—November 10-15		
A16, Nov 16	Incentives	Sandel, Ch. 2
A17, Nov 18	How markets crowd out morals	Sandel, Ch. 3
A18, Nov 20	Markets in life and death and Naming rights	Sandel, Ch. 4 & 5
A19, Nov 23	<i>Plentitude</i> introduction	Schor, Ch. 1
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago—November 24		
A20, Nov 26	From consumer boom to ecological bust	Schor, Ch. 2

A21, Nov 28	Economics confronts the earth	Schor, Ch. 3
Nov 29	<i>Panama Canal Transit</i>	No classes
A22, Dec 1	Living rich on a troubled planet	Schor, Ch. 4
Guayaquil, Ecuador—December 2-7		
A23, Dec 9	The economics of plentitude	Schor, Ch. 5
Punta Arenas, Costa Rica—December 11-15		
A24, Dec 16	What does it all mean?	Review
A25, Dec 19	Final Exam	
Arrive San Diego, California—December 23		

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class

The field class for this course is on **Tuesday**, 29 October in Tema, Ghana.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.

Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Cocoa Production in Ghana

Cocoa, the basis for chocolate, is one of the world's largest trading commodities. Ghana exports 20% of world cocoa supplies, second only to neighboring Ivory Coast. Although cocoa is a huge cash crop, commodity prices fluctuate dramatically at times and it is a difficult business for the small farmers typical in this industry. Input costs of growing cocoa can be high and the weather has become less predictable with climate change. There are also serious labor rights issues associated with the cocoa industry, including reports of pervasive child slavery on cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast. In Ghana, the national government monitors and controls cocoa sales through an organization called the COCOBOD, which is an important source of revenue for the government and sets cocoa prices received by growers and establishes minimum wages for workers. The COCOBOD's control of this commodity might also make it difficult to reward innovative growers or international chocolate buyers like Nestle and Hershey who might want to promote sustainability and higher quality cocoa beans.

We will visit and tour of a cocoa growing region including a visit to an NGO working with cocoa farmers and a visit to COCOBOD, the government agency involved with monitoring the sourcing and exporting of cocoa. We will see how cocoa is grown and hear about the problems farmers face. Cocoa farmers in Ghana can be seen as representative of small farmers all over the world, trying to make a living selling commodity crops with very little control over prices or our changing climate.

During the field study be sure to show your enthusiasm for the subject, ask probing questions of the presenters, and take good notes. Nothing makes for better field classes than insightful student questions, leading to good questions from other students.

Learning Objectives:

1. Gain an understanding of the characteristics of cocoa growing in Ghana and its important role in the global chocolate industry.
2. Understand the role of private enterprise, NGOs, government agencies, multinational companies and other stakeholders in advancing (or limiting) social and environmental issues in Ghanaian cocoa growing regions.
3. Understand the pressures that inhibit farmers from using the most sustainable practices in Ghana.

Field Class Report

Upon completion of the field class, students will prepare a three to four page (double spaced) paper, “reflecting forward” on how what they learned during the field class adds to what they have learned in class readings and how it affects the way they view various issues. The report is due in class and may include brief summary presentations.

Independent Field Assignments

You will not have specific independent field assignments for this course, but do pay attention to the many interactions among people you observe in the various countries we visit and let that inform your contributions to our class discussions.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Field Class Report	20%
Three quizzes @ 20%	60%
Participation & Professionalism	20%

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

None

FILM REQUEST

Title of Film: *Nothing like Chocolate*
Distributor: Bullfrog Films

Title of film: *Fair Trade and Chocolate: The Divine Story.*
Distributor: Kanopy

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

None

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None