

BGS 372T: Business Ethics and Social Responsibility

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Dean Bredeson, J.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview

This course is designed to help you improve your ability to make sharp assessments of ethical dilemmas, both inside and out of a workplace. In many cases, people choose an action because they feel compelled to act in some specific way by an outside force. A person might

not drive over 65 miles per hour, for example, because a law says that to do so is wrongful and punishable. But often, there is nothing other than a person's own sense of right and wrong to guide a decision. In many situations, laws and other kinds of rules are silent. Everyone has some level of intuition in these situations, but people often have difficulty reaching decisions when they have no guidance other than their own gut level feelings to work with.

This course will help you to become a more sophisticated decision maker by requiring you to study and then apply a variety of ethical models and ideas. In the end, you will gain the ability to make ethics decisions more efficiently and with more confidence. You will also gain more insight into how others are likely to react to your decisions. This is often a critical part of advancing a career. If you can better anticipate how other people—whether they are bosses, subordinates, customers, members of the media, or government regulators, to name a few types—will react to your ethics decisions, your career will tend advance more quickly no matter what you do for a living.

Required Materials

There is no required textbook for this class. Course readings will be made available online.

Course Organization

This course contains ten lessons organized in three modules. You must receive a grade on all assignments in a module before the next module will open. There are seven assessments: three instructor-graded writing assignments with essay questions, three computer-graded quizzes with multiple choice questions, and a final exam with essay questions. In short, the quizzes are designed to assess whether you have reviewed the online notes and done the reading assignments with a reasonable degree of care, and the writing assignments are designed to require you to apply the ideas in the course to new scenarios. The quizzes and writing assignments are open-notes and open-book. The final exam is closed-notes and closed-book. You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Outline

Module	Lessons	Assessments
1	Lesson 1: Sources of Unethical Behavior Lesson 2: Utilitarianism Lesson 3: Kantian Ethics	Computer-Graded Assignment 1 Instructor-Graded Assignment 2
2	Lesson 4: Shareholder and Stakeholder Theory Lesson 5: Distributive Justice Theories Lesson 6: Workplace Discrimination	Computer-Graded Assignment 3 Instructor-Graded Assignment 4

3	Lesson 7: Environmental Ethics Lesson 8: Ethical Marketing, Selling, and Advertising Lesson 9: Workplace Privacy Lesson 10: Review	Computer-Graded Assignment 5 Instructor-Graded Assignment 6
FINAL EXAM		

Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

01: Computer-Graded Assignment	5%
02: Instructor-Graded Assignment	15%
03: Computer-Graded Assignment	5%
04: Instructor-Graded Assignment	15%
05: Computer-Graded Assignment	5%
06: Instructor-Graded Assignment	20%
Final Exam	35%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

Lowest A: 89.5

Lowest B: 79.5

Lowest C: 69.5

Lowest D: 59.5

There will be no +/- grading for the course.

Getting Help

- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies

Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of *F* on the exam and an *F* in the course.

University Extension Contact Information

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