





# Philosophy (PHIL) 337

## Business Ethics (Revision 3)

**Status:**

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

**Delivery mode:**

Individualized study online 

**Credits:**

3

**Areas of study:**

Arts or Humanities

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Precluded:**

None

**Challenge:**

PHIL 337 is not available for challenge.

**Faculty:**

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

## Overview

*Business Ethics* examines ethical theories and how they can be applied constructively to leading matters of business practice such as advertising, hiring and firing, corporate social responsibility, globalization, integrity, and leadership.

1. How do our jobs and consumer products both facilitate and frustrate our efforts to live well?
2. What does a responsible critique of business practice look like?
3. What do we hope to achieve from critical evaluations of business practice?
4. What truly constitutes “good business”?

## Outline

- Unit 1: Introducing Business Ethics
- Unit 2: Normative Ethical Theories, Part I—Moral Relativism and Divine Command Theory
- Unit 3: Normative Ethical Theories, Part II—Ethical Egoism, Utilitarianism, and Kantian Ethics
- Unit 4: The Ethics of Advertising and Consumer Desire
- Unit 5: The Ethics of Hiring and Firing
- Unit 6: The Ethics of Corporate Responsibility in Society
- Unit 7: The Ethics of the Globalization of Business
- Unit 8: Integrity and the Ethics of Leadership

## Learning outcomes

By the completion of this course, students will be able to

- explain important concepts and theories in the area of business ethics.
- analyze the ethical features of business activity.
- formulate reasoned positions on ethical issues specific to business practice.

- develop critical thinking, writing, and ethical decision-making skills.

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) you must complete and submit all of the assignments and write the final exam. You must achieve an overall grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) for the course. Your final grade in the course will be based on the marks achieved for the following activities.

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1 (Short Essays)	30%
Assignment 2 (Long Essay)	30%
Final Online Exam	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).





## Materials

Allhoff, F., Sager, A., Vaidya, A. J. (Eds.) (2017). *Business in Ethical Focus* (2nd ed.). Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press. [📄](#) (Print)

## Other Materials

All other materials are available online.

## Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 
- › [Introduction Video](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 3, August 17, 2020*

*Updated May 6, 2024*

View [previous revision](#) 

---