

ABSO450 – Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility

Course Title	Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility				
Course Code	ABSO 450				
Course Type	Elective				
Level	BA (Level 1)				
Year / Semester	4 th				
Teacher's Name	Dr Nina Gorovaia-Zeniou / Ms Athina Sophocleous (PhD Cand.)				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	3	Laboratories/week	
Course Purpose	<p>The purpose of this course is a comprehensive and up-to-date discussion of the most prominent issues in the field of business ethics, and the major positions and arguments on these issues. The students will discuss numerous real-life examples and case studies to increase understanding of issues, stimulate class discussion, and show the relevance of the discussion to real-life business practice. The focus of the course is primarily on ethical issues that corporate decision makers face in developing policies about employees, customers, and the general public. The positions and arguments on these issues are taken from a wide variety of sources, including economics and the law.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>By the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain how business decision-making can run afoul of ethical concerns. 2. Describe the relationship between ethics and the law 3. Identify the ethical duties and obligations of business that arise from the market, roles and relationships. 4. Describe the philosophical and psychological bases of ethical reasoning 5. Identify the role that ethical theories play in moral reasoning. 6. Explain what utilitarianism is and its two types. 7. Explain the basis and the cardinal rule of Kantian ethics. 8. Explain the basis of virtue ethics. 9. Describe various emphases of rights and justice in ethical theory. 10. Describe the process of whistle-blowing. 11. Explain the dilemma between whistle-blowing and loyalty. 12. Identify appropriate conditions for whistle-blowing. 13. Explain how ethical problems arise in business from conflicts of interest. 14. Identify the arenas in which privacy concerns have come under increasing scrutiny. 15. Explain the ethical meaning of the concept of privacy. 16. Explain utilitarian and Kantian arguments for the protection of privacy. 				

	<p>17. Describe the financial services industry and the specific ethical issues that arise in that field.</p> <p>18. Describe the ethical responsibilities of the various players in the financial markets.</p> <p>19. Explain why insider trading is unethical.</p> <p>20. Explain the nature of hostile takeovers and why they are an exception to the usual course of business.</p> <p>21. Understand the social responsibility of corporations toward their various constituencies around the world, in particular their responsibilities toward human rights</p> <p>22. Acknowledge the strategic role that ethics must play in global management and provide guidance to managers to maintain ethical behavior amid the varying standards and practices around the world</p> <p>23. Recognize the importance of managing interdependence and include sustainability and shared value in their long-term plans</p> <p>24. Describe the ways in which CSR can be manifested and implemented by companies</p>		
Prerequisites	None.	Co-requisites	None.
Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics in the World of Business • Ethical Decision Making • Ethical Theories • Whistle-Blowing • Trade Secrets and Conflict of Interest • Privacy • Marketing, Advertising, and Product Safety • Ethics in Finance • Corporate Social responsibility 		
Teaching Methodology	<p>The course material is delivered to the students by means of lectures, conducted with the help of power point presentations and short videos. Numerous international and local real-life examples and case studies will be discussed in class to illustrate the meaning of ethical behaviour and CSR.</p> <p>Power point presentations used in class, lecture notes, some of the case studies are available to the students on the e-learning platform.</p>		
Bibliography	<p><u>Textbooks:</u></p> <p>Boatright (2012), Ethics and the Conduct of Business, Seventh Edition, Pearson.</p> <p><u>References:</u></p>		

	Sandbu M. (2012), Just Business. Arguments in Business Ethics, 1 st Edition, Pearson.
Assessment	<p><u>(a) Methods:</u> Students will be assessed with coursework that involves two midterm tests and a final exam.</p> <p><u>(b) Criteria:</u> Students are assessed based on the quality of their essays, understanding of ethical principles and dilemmas, and problem-solving skills.</p> <p><u>(c) Weights:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term test 20% • Assignment 20% • Final exam 60%
Language	English.