



SYLLABUS

ACCT 430/530 – 81E (20507/20514)

Business Ethics for Accountants

SPRING 2013:

Professor:	Christopher Meadors, JD, CPA, CFF
Dates:	January 14 – May 10, 2013.
Time(s):	Saturdays: 12pm – 2:40 pm
Location:	The University Center at Dallas (“UCD”) 1901 Main Street, Dallas, TX 75201 http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/university/dallas-campus.asp
Faculty Office(s):	UCD:, Room 301 Main Campus (Commerce): Department of Accounting Offices
Office Hours:	Commerce: TBA UCD: TBA Additional hours by appointment
Contact:	Email Best Method: cbmeadors@empirecentral.com or christopher.meadors@tamuc.edu

Course Description:

Introduction of ethical reasoning, integrity, objectivity, independence, core values, and professional issues in accounting. Students will apply the concepts and theories to accounting cases. Prerequisite: Acct 322. This course is web enhanced. In other words, the course is live, but the Instructor will use online tools (i.e. eCollege) to enhance the course and facilitate learning. Accordingly, rather than handout papers, students are required to download, via document sharing, required documents. Also, assignments will be submitted via the course dropbox. Additional information will be discussed in class.

Required Course Materials

Mintz, S. & Morris, M., (2011) *Ethical Obligations and Decision Making in Accounting: Text and Cases*. (2nd ed.) McGraw-Hill: Boston (ISBN: 978-0-07-802528-0).

Texas State Board of Public Accountancy (2009). *The Public Accountancy Act, Chapter 901 of the Occupations Code*. (<http://www.tsbpa.state.tx.us/.pdf/TSBPAACT.pdf>)

Recommended Course Materials:

May, C., & May, G. (2008). *Effective writing: A handbook for accountants* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River: Pearson. (ISBN: 978-0-13-602908-3).

American Psychological Association (APA). (2009) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C: Author. (ISBN: 1-4338-0562-6).

Course Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course the student will:

- Understand the meaning of ethics and why ethics are critical for students to learn
- Develop an understanding of various aspects of moral reasoning
- Understand how moral reasoning is used for ethical decision- making
- Learn the tools and techniques for analyzing ethical situations and using these tools to make ethical decisions including identification of the stakeholders, the issues involved, and the process for making an ethical decision
- Understand concepts associated with business ethics and the impact of business ethics on corporate governance
- Determine how firms develop corporate codes of conduct and the roles such codes have on corporate governance
- Understand the importance of ethics on professions such as accounting
- Understand professional ethics for accountants in public accounting with emphasis on the AICPA Code of Conduct and the Texas rules of Conduct
- Understand professional ethics for accountants in other areas including management accounting, internal auditing, and not-for- profit accounting
- Understand legal liability issues that accountants face and the impact that such issues have on professional ethics
- Understand the current state of the profession and the implications for the future of accounting, particularly public accounting.
- Analyze, research and use technology in determining the relevance of important ethical and professional issues

Course Emphasis:

- The following emphases will guide the composition of course assignments and activities:
- Provide the basics of ethics and why ethical behavior is important to successful business operations
- Provide students with the tools needed to understand moral reasoning and to make ethical decisions
- Provide students with an understanding of corporate governance and the impact that ethical decisions will have on business operations
- Provide students with an understanding of the importance of professional ethics for accountants
- Introduce the various professional ethics standards within the accounting profession including the AICPA Code of Conduct, the Texas Rules of Conduct, and ethics standards for other accounting organizations such as the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, Institute of Management Accountants, The
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the Institute of
- Internal Auditors
- Place particular emphasis on the importance of ethical reasoning, independence, integrity, and objectivity in providing accounting services
- Introduce students to accountant's legal liability issues and how improper ethical behavior can create such legal problems
- Discuss real world situations and case studies where students will have to make ethical decisions that will enhance their ability to make such decisions in the workplace

Professional Competency Development:

- Develop critical skills by analyzing ethical and legal issues and problems, recognizing and assessing such issues, and recommending specific actions to implement your analyses
- Sharpen interpersonal skills by participating in group assignments
- Improve oral and written communication skills through class discussions, cases analyses, formal and informal presentations, and group and individual written assignments
- Expand technology-based competencies by gathering information from electronic sources (i.e., the Internet and library electronic databases) and using presentation technologies (e.g., Power Point)
- Enhance learning competencies by reading articles from the popular business and technical accounting press and discussing current events as they relate to professional ethics for accountants

Homework:

Each student is to read the assignments for each week. Assigned homework cases must be typed and submitted by the due date and time. There will be additional readings and homework assignments made during the semester.

Expanded Competencies:

In addition to the course material, part of your grade will be based on your performance within your group, your individual class participation, writing ability, etc. These skills are important in your development as professionals.

Class Participation:

Each student is expected to demonstrate his or her mastery of the covered material apart from exam scores. This can be accomplished by attending class, responding to questions and offering observations during class. **Class participation is very important** in this course where many of the situations which we will examine do not have clear-cut “right or wrong” answers. Your answer may often depend on your background, both spiritually and culturally. Therefore, class participation is essential to enhance your understanding of ethics and their impact on business. Students will be assessed on class participation and graded on the quality of their answers. This class participation grade will be a part of the expanded competency component.

Instructional Methodology:

This class will consist of lecture, discussion, presentation, quizzes, research, papers and problem solving. The method of instruction for this course will be live face-to-face in the classroom and web enhanced. The course will have some supplementary materials provided by means of the internet.

Evaluation:

Evaluation consists of team case analysis reports and presentations, one individual research paper, homework cases (short papers), examinations, and class participation (including discussion questions). All reading assignments are to be completed before turning in the written assignment. All written assignments must be completed and submitted at the beginning of the scheduled class or announced due date. Late work is not accepted. Students are required to complete all

assignments. There are no make-up assignments. In the event a student does not complete an assignment when scheduled, the student will receive a zero. If an examination is missed, at the discretion of the Instructor, weighting of the previous or subsequent examination will be increased. The Instructor will consider circumstances, class attendance, participation, and other factors. All written assignments will be prepared with a word processor and professional in appearance (neat, terms correctly used and spelled, complete sentences with proper punctuation, reference citations, etc.). Penalty points will be deducted for late submission of assignments. End of chapter questions are not to be turned in. However, be prepared to answer any discussion question in class. Your response will contribute towards the participation evaluation component of this course. Points are earned as follows:

Homework	50 points
Participation	50 points
Group cases	100 points
Research papers	100 points
Exam(2*150)	300points
Total	600 points

The final semester grades for the course will be based on the following scale:

A	90-100%	540 - 600 points
B	80-89%	480 - 539 points
C	70-79%	360 - 479 points
D	60-69%	300 - 359 points
F	Below 60%	000 - 299 points

Exams:

There will be two exams. No make-up exams will be given during the semester (regardless of whether your absence is excused or unexcused). For example, if you miss Test I as a result of an excused absence, Exam II grade will be increased to 200 points to make up for the missed exam. The Final Exam must be taken at the assigned time. Exams will cover topics identified, cases, class discussions, and other material.

Library Database Assistance:

The library offers a web-based access. You can access this site at the following address: <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/library/>

Please take a look – you can access these resources and learn about using basic search skills, selecting the best databases for your needs, and accessing the databases both on-campus and off-campus.

If you have any questions or would like to offer some feedback, please contact: Sarah Northam <Or another reference librarian> Interim Head of Reference, Gee Library
Phone: 903/886-5714
Email: **Sarah_Northam@TAMU-Commerce.edu**

Research Papers (2):

Paper :1

Part I

For any twelve month period, summarize enforcement actions taken by The Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. For each action, list the respondents name, date of action, rule and/or act violation (by section number) and a brief description of the violation (i.e. fraud, failure to file income taxes, CPE violation, etc.). Prepare a spreadsheet summarizing the cases and write no more than five pages discussing your impressions of the cases and TSBPA action.

Part II

What enforcement actions did the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy take against Auditors involved with the Enron scandal? Identify each individual and provide disciplinary information. Limit your discussion to one paragraph per individual.

Paper 2:

Write a paper (may be real or fictional) involving Accounting and business moral dilemmas. The paper should not exceed 20 pages (double spaced) in accordance with APA guidelines.

Group cases (3):

In an attempt to make the classroom material relate to the "real" world, students must gather information, write a paper, and present to the class regarding current Business Ethics for Accountants as required. This requirement is an individual/group project. The group will turn in a weekly paper not to exceed five pages (not including cover page and references) in length summarizing recent allegations of ethical lapses by accountants or business persons (including not for profit and government employees). Groups must discuss the allegation(s), impact to the entity or society, recommendations for earlier discovery, prevention, and enforcement information. One team member will present summary information to the class. The double spaced paper must be prepared using the APA <American Psychological Association> format. You are encouraged to use publications like The Journal of Accountancy, The Wall Street Journal (articles of a minimum length of 20 column inches), Fortune, Internal Auditor, Harvard Business Review, Managerial Accounting, Journal of Business Ethics, etc. Most weeks, class time will be available to work in groups on the weekly project.

You will be given a grade based on your presentation skill and content. The group will be assigned a group grade (part of the expanded competencies grade) on the basis of the case and on the basis of an evaluation of your performance within the group. With instructor consent, cases may be done individually.

Class Conduct and Attendance:

Attendance requirements are explained in the TAMU-Commerce General Catalog and The Student Guidebook. Each student is expected to be present and to be prepared for each class. Students are expected to arrive on time. Students arriving late and leaving early will have points deducted. Attendance will help you pass! Most students need to attend class to gain understanding needed to pass the tests. When deciding whether or not to come to class, consider the following:

- There is a direct correlation between class attendance and grades;

- Class participation and homework do affect grades;
- This course material is very difficult to “catch-up” if you get behind;
- Consider this a job and it is your responsibility to attend class the same as you would go to work.

There may be assignments made that are not on the course assignment sheet. It is the student’s responsibility to check with classmates or the instructor for work missed. Attendance and outside work assignments completed will be considered in determining grades, including each test. The instructor may take up homework assignments at will and these will be considered in determining the final grade. The taken-up assignments will not be accepted after the class period.

Ethics:

Integrity is the hallmark of the accounting profession and will be stressed throughout the course. Any type of student breach of ethics, including but not limited to: illegal activity, dishonest conduct, cheating, plagiarism, or collusion, will result in failure of assignment or exam (F) and/or further academic sanction (i.e. failure of course (F), dismissal from class and/or referral to Dean of the College of Business and Technology) for additional academic sanctions.

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Disability:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Email:

Emails are the best way to contact me. However, I am bombarded by spam and have a filter that may or may not eliminate your e-mail. If you send an e-mail to me give me at least 24 hours (during the workweek) to respond. If you do not get a response then send again. I am not going to ignore you. INCLUDE THE COUSE NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

Other:

University policy will be followed in regards to withdrawals during the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to conform with the university rules relating to dropping or withdrawing from the course and all other polices.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change as needed to meet the objectives or administration of the course at the discretion of the Professor. It is not anticipated that there will be any substantive changes.

Matrix and Rubrics:

Texas State Board of Public Accountancy Ethics Course		
Matrix		
<i>Topical Coverage</i>	<i>Percentage of course devoted to TSBPA identified content</i>	<i>Method of Delivery (see notes)</i>
Ethical Reasoning	20	C, D, I, L, & R
Integrity	20	C, D, I, L, & R
Objectivity	15	C, D, I, L, & R
Independence	15	C, D, I, L, & R
Other Core Values	5	C, D, I, L, & R
AICPA, SEC, and TSBPA ethics rules	5	D, L, & R
Ethical Theory	10	C, D, I, L, & R
Other Topics	8	D & R
University mandated topics	2	D & L
Total	100	
Method of Delivery: (C) Case Studies; (D) Class Discussion; (G) Guest Speaker; (I) independent/Small Group Research; (L) Lecture; (R) Reading		

GROUP PRESENTATION RUBRIC			
Topic	Possible Points	Grading Guide	Points Assigned
Case(s) selection	0-3	<p>0= Inappropriate case selection, failed to address accounting ethics</p> <p>1= Criminal or Civil case not completed or complaint not filed, based solely on newspaper or other accounts.</p> <p>2=Case not resolved, but indictment or pleadings filed, case relevant to accounting ethics</p> <p>3=Selected a completed case, obtained primary documentation (i.e. indictment, verdict, etc.) relevant and appropriate to assignment.</p>	
Impact on the entity or person and also on society and accounting profession	0-5	<p>0= Omitted any issues related to impact on society.</p> <p>1= Identified minimal issues but failed to clearly articulate impact on society or profession.</p> <p>2= Identified impact on entity or person, but failed to address impact on society.</p> <p>3= Inadequately identified impact on the entity or person and also on society and accounting profession.</p> <p>4= Identified Impact on the entity or person and also on society and accounting profession, but needed further explanation or analysis.</p> <p>5=Effectively communicated the impact on the entity or person and also on society and accounting profession</p>	
Recommendations for earlier discovery and Prevention or Detection	0-5	<p>0= None or improper recommendations discussed.</p> <p>2= One recommendation provided without explanation.</p> <p>3= two recommendations with explanation provided.</p> <p>5 = Clearly identified and explained three or more appropriate recommendations for earlier detection and also deterrent.</p>	
Presentation	0-10	<p>0= Failed to present or disrespectful while responding to questions.</p> <p>3=Improper business attire worn by all group members, speaker demonstrated little interest in conveying information to others, poor presentation (mumbling, etc.), or failed to demonstrate knowledge of case. Presentation was not within time allotted (i.e. to short or too long).</p> <p>5=Poor visuals (too much information on slides, hard to read, unclear, etc.), unorganized, most but not all group members in proper business attire, failed to present within prescribed time frame, but demonstrated understanding of case.</p> <p>7= Visuals needed improvement, answered most questions appropriately, demonstrated basic knowledge of impact on the entity or person, and also on society</p>	
		<p>and accounting profession.</p> <p>10= Well done visuals, demonstrated knowledge of case and impact on the entity or person and also on society and accounting profession, entire group in proper business attire, and speaker and group acted professionally.</p>	

Paper (Note: Paper for third case is worth 11 points)	0-10	<p>0=Difficult to read, unorganized, weak, lacks references, or not well developed.</p> <p>3= Paper contains material grammatical errors or gross mistakes and not well developed.</p> <p>5=Paper organized, not fully developed, insufficient evidence or other flaws to undermine paper.</p> <p>7=Paper organized, followed most APA guidelines, few grammatical errors, mostly easy to read, and identified most violations of AICPA and TSCPA violations, codes of conduct.</p> <p>10=Paper was well written, organized, informative, easy to read, and followed APA format, including proper references. Identified violations of AICPA and TSBPA, codes of conduct or regulations and demonstration of ability to analyze ethical situation and related concepts.</p>	
Total <i>(Or 34 for third case)</i>	33		

HOMEWORK			
Assignment	Possible Points	Grading Guide	Points Assigned
Chapter Cases	0-50	<p>0 = Cases not turned in or hand written</p> <p>25= Fifty percent of cases submitted on time and well written.</p> <p>40 = Eighty percent of cases submitted on time and well written.</p> <p>50=All cases well written submitted on time and typed format and demonstrated mastery of course objectives.</p>	
PARTICIPATION			
Assignment	Possible Points	Grading Guide	Points Assigned
Engaged in class discussions	0-50	<p>0= Did not participate in majority of class discussions or did not ask group questions</p> <p>50= contributed or and participated in majority of class discussions</p>	
RESEARCH PAPERS			
Assignment	Possible Points	Grading Guide	Points Assigned
	0-100	<p>0-29=Difficult to read, unorganized, weak, lacks references, or not well developed.</p> <p>30-59= Paper contains material grammatical errors or gross mistakes and not well developed.</p>	

		<p>50-69=Paper organized, not fully developed, insufficient evidence or other flaws to undermine paper.</p> <p>70-79=Paper organized, followed most APA guidelines, few grammatical errors, mostly easy to read, and identified appropriate issues and most violations of AICPA and TSCPA violations or codes of conduct.</p> <p>80-89 = Paper organized, significantly followed APA guidelines, few grammatical errors, mostly easy to read, and identified relevant issues or violations of AICPA and TSCPA, codes of conduct and demonstration ability to analyze ethical situation and related concepts.</p> <p>90-100=Paper was well written, organized, informative, easy to read, and followed APA format, including proper references. Identified issues or violations of AICPA and TSBPA codes of conduct or regulations and demonstration superior ability to analyze ethical situation and related concepts.</p>	
EXAMS (2)			
Assignment	Possible Points	Grading Guide	Points Assigned
Exam	0-150	<p>0-90= Mastery of material not demonstrated. Answered questions incomplete or inaccurately.</p> <p>91-104=Barely demonstrated basic understanding of some or of the material.</p> <p>105-119=Provided acceptable level of informative or organized response. However, answers not fully developed. Demonstrated acceptable level of ethical reasoning, understanding of laws, ethics, codes of conduct, or moral reasoning</p> <p>120-134=Demonstrated above average level of informative and organized response. Clearly articulated above average understanding of laws, ethics, codes, or conduct or moral reasoning.</p> <p>135-150= Demonstrated superior level of informative and organized response. Clearly articulated superior understanding of laws, ethics, codes, or conduct or moral reasoning. Identified appropriate dilemma, considered all stakeholders, analyzed alternatives and consequences, and formulated exemplary course of action or recommendation.</p>	
<i>NOTE: Rubrics are guides and subject to change based on Instructor needs.</i>			

Acct 430/530- Assignment Schedule (Unless otherwise indicated, Cases are due by the beginning of the assigned class meeting. Do not turn in class discussion questions. However, be prepared to answer when called upon).			
Date	Topic Chapters are in text. PAA = The Public Accountancy Act)	Class discussion Questions	Cases <i>Place in the Dropbox on eCollege</i>
1/19	Course Introduction Ch 1 –Ethical Reasoning: Implications for Accounting	End of chapter Questions	Odd numbered cases
1/26	Ch 2 – Accountants Ethical Decision Process and Professional Judgment PAA: Subchapters A, B, C, & D	End of chapter Questions	Even numbered cases
2/2	Ch 3 – Corporate Governance and Ethical Management Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Odd numbered cases
2/9	Ch 3 – Corporate Governance and Ethical Management Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Odd numbered cases
2/16	Ch 4 – AICPA Code of Professional Conduct PAA: Subchapters E, F, & G Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Even numbered cases
2/23	Exam I (Chap 1-3) PAA Subchapter A-D		
3/2	Ch 4 – AICPA Code of Professional Conduct Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Even numbered cases
3/9	Ch 5 – Audit Responsibilities and Accounting Fraud Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Odd numbered cases
3/16	SPRING BREAK		
3/23	Ch 6 – Legal and Regulatory Obligations in an Ethical Framework Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Even numbered cases
3/30	Ch 6 – Legal and Regulatory Obligations in an Ethical Framework Group Presentations PAA: Subchapters H, I, J, K	End of chapter Questions	Even numbered cases
4/6	Ch 7 – Earnings Management and the Quality of Financial Reporting Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Odd numbered cases
4/13	Ch 7 – Earnings Management and the Quality of Financial Reporting PAA: Subchapters L, M, and appendix Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Odd numbered cases
4/20	Ch 8 –International Financial Reporting: Ethics and Corporate Governance Considerations Group Presentations	End of chapter Questions	Even numbered cases
4/27	Course wrap up Research Paper Due		Research Papers Due
5/4	Exam II – Chapters 4-7 & PAA		