

Business Ethics
Dr. Sarit Smila Sened
TAU International Study Abroad
Spring Semester 2022

Instructor Contact Information: Sarits@tauex.tau.ac.il

Office Hours: available by appointment (email to set up time)

Course Credits: 3 TAU Semester Credits

For course times/days and location, please visit the TAU International web site (Study Abroad Course Offerings and Schedules). Please note that all information below is subject to change and/or adjustment as necessary.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to examine central issues in global ethics. We will start by exploring the theoretical debate surrounding the idea of the national state as opposed to cosmopolitan ideas in an era of globalization. We will then proceed to examine the most pressing global issues of our time such as terrorism, immigration, climate change and more.

Course Requirements and Expectations

students are expected to have carefully read the assigned readings prior to the class meeting in which they are to be discussed, and are expected to participate in discussions regarding the materials. An essential part of this course is critical thought and discussion of philosophical issues – that is, doing philosophy, not just reading about it. Note that a crucial part of participation involves respect for other people in the class and for their views.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester you would be able to identify and analyze key features of the prevalent ethical debates in Business ethics. You would be able to understand the ethical challenges of the business world and possible ways to address those. You would be familiar with both sides of the ethical debates and would acquire the necessary skills to evaluate the different views.

Evaluation Criteria

Final Take-home – 4-6 pages (60%), Midterm Exam (20%), attendance and participation (20%)



Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Ethics and Business Ethics

Amartya Sen “Does Business Ethics makes Economic Sense?”

Utilitarianism: Chapters 6&7 in Rachels

Week 2: Ethical Theories

Kantian Ethics: Chapter 8&9 in Rachels

Week 3: Ethical Theories

Care and Virtue Ethics: Chapters 11&12 in Rachels

Robert C. Solomon “Business Ethics and Virtue”

Week 4: Review and Midterm Exam

Week 5: Corporate Social Responsibility

Milton Friedman “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Its Profit”

Edward Freeman “A Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation”

George Brenkert “Private Corporations and Public Welfare”

Joseph Heath “Business Ethics Without Stakeholders”

Week 6: Environmental Responsibility

Michael Sagoff “At The Monument to General Meade, or On the Difference Between Beliefs and Benefits”

Kristin Shrader-Frechtt “A Defense of Risk-Cost-Benefit Analysis”

Deborah C. Poff “Reconciling the Irreconcilable: The Global Economy and the Environment”

Tibor R. Machan “Environmentalism Humanized”

Week 7: Globalization and Its Ethical Significance

Thomas Donaldson “The Ethics of Risk in the Global Economy”



Thomas Donaldson “Values in Tension: Ethics Away From Home”

Week 8: Rights and Obligations of Employers and Employees

Richard T. De George “Whistleblowing”

Robert A. Larmer “Whistleblowing and Employee Loyalty”

Jeffery Pfeffer Introduction from “Dying for a Paycheck”

Tibor R. Machan, “Human Rights, Workers’ Rights, and the Right to Occupational Safety”

Week 8: Distributive Justice

Classical Theories of Contracts, Property, and Capitalism

Excerpts from Hobbes, Locke, Smith and Marx

Contemporary Theories of Distributive Justice

Excerpts from Rawls and Nozick

Week 9: Justice and Fair Practice

Edwin C. Hettinger “What is Wrong with Reverse Discrimination?”

Louis P. Pojman “The Moral Status of Affirmative Action”

Anita M. Superson “A Feminist Definition of Sexual Harassment”

Stephen Griffith “Sexual Harassment and the Rights of the Accused”

Week 10: Advertising and Marketing

Tibor R. Machan “Advertising: The Whole Truth or Only Some of the Truth?”

Roger Crisp “Persuasive Advertising, Autonomy, and the Creation of Desire”

Robert L. Arrington “Advertising as Behavior Control”

Lynn Sharp Paine “Children as Consumers: An Ethical Evaluation of Children’s Television Advertising”

Week 11: Review and Concluding remarks



Course Readings

The Elements of Moral Philosophy / Rachels

Business in Ethical Focus: An Anthology

Additional Readings available on moodle

Instructor Biography

Dr. Sarit Smila Sened received her Ph.D in Philosophy in 2009 from Washington University in St. Louis where she also taught until 2013 when she moved back to Israel. She is teaching since then at the Bob Shapell School of Social Work and at Tau International. She specializes in Ethics and moral education.

TAU International Academic Guidelines

Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the student's home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs or accommodations they may have. **Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.**

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments.

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It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

In-Class Exams

TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student's responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

TAU International Absence Policy

Attendance is mandatory in all of the courses including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor's note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor's note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.

Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence.

Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

Grade Appeals

Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#).

