Course Descriptions None 2013-2014

Course Title	Ethics, organisations and Society
Course Code	EBC2081
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	None

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5	14-4-2014	6-6-2014		X			X

Level	Intermediate
Coordinator	Harry Hummels For more information:h.hummels@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	The core of an ethics course is to confront students with ethical and responsibility dilemmas that they have to study, reflect on and discuss in small groups. Ethics is characterised by a discourse on moral values, norms and standards and the decision-making on the basis of sound argumentation. Students who have completed the course have mastered the core insights of business ethics theory and corporate responsibility.
Description	On 29 June 2009 Bernard Madoff was convicted for fraud and sentenced to 150 years in prison. He had turned his wealth management business into a massive Ponzi scheme. As a result, Madoff's clients lost US$ 65 billion. Madoff pleaded guilty and apologized to his victims, saying, "I have left a legacy of shame, as some of my victims have pointed out, to my family and my grandchildren. This is something I will live in for the rest of my life. I'm sorry." You do not need a cause in ethics and corporate responsibility to know that what Madoff did was wrong. You simply have a look at our legal system - or nearly every other legal system in the world - and you will find that fraud is illegal. More interesting than the obvious felony committed by Madoff are, therefore, those cases where the law is not clear, but where there might be something fishy about the actions and behaviour of a person or an organisation. We will discuss a variety of cases ranging from the Body Shop to Shell and from BP to the financial sector. In an era where lack of ethical thinking and competences contributed to some of the major crises that have taken place in this relatively young millennium, a course in ethics does not seem an unnecessary luxury. Looking at business, but also at government, multilateral Organisations or NGOs, some basic knowledge and skills to understand and improve the relationship with society seems to be an important asset nowadays. At the end of the course there will be a symposium with participation of three international organisations like Shell, ING and KPMG.
Literature	The literature for this course consists of textbooks and academic articles. The books are: - Buchholtz, A.K., and Carroll, A.B., Business and Society; Ethics and Stakeholder Management, Thomson, 8th edition, 2011. - Jones, G., Cardinal, D., and Hayward, J., Moral Philosophy, a guide to ethical theory, Hodder Education, London, 2006 In addition, articles and cases will be used and distributed during the course.
Prerequisites	In order to participate in this course, all participants should have a basic understanding of the functioning of organisations, management of and co-ordination within organisations, organisational ecology, co-ordination mechanisms in industries – such as, for example, the choice between allocation through planning or through market forces – and of an ‘economic order'. An advanced level of English
Teaching methods	PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Groupwork
Assessment methods	Final Paper / Participation
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Bachelor International Business	Ethics elective
SBE Exchange Bachelor	Bachelor Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Bachelor Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Bachelor Courses