Course Descriptions None 2025-2026

Course Title	Ethics, Organisations and Society
Course Code	EBC2081
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5	13-4-2026	5-6-2026		X			X

Level	Introductory/Intermediate
Coordinator	Harry Hummels For more information:h.hummels@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	This course is designed to provide a reflection on the responsibilities of business organisations in society and on the role of managers and professionals in clarifying, discussing, and implementing these responsibilities. The course aims to: * Provide a deeper understanding of the role and conduct of business in society, * Explain concepts of ethics, responsibility, sustainability, leadership, and social entrepreneurship, * Discuss with fellow students the ins and outs of these relevant concepts, * Apply the accumulated knowledge in practical case studies and through personal reflection.
Description	You can watch hours of popular movies – some of them real blockbusters – to get an idea about what is wrong in business. Not all businesses, but quite a few of them are dealing with covert practices that their leaders would like to keep in the dark. When the story finally breaks loose, it is a nice and often juicy set-up for a few hours of sometimes ingenious misbehaviour that makes many viewers morally uncomfortable. Think of #Metoo resulting in films like Tár, She said, Bombshell, Surviving R. Kelly, or Jeffrey Epstein: Filthy Rich. Or think about the 2008 financial crisis or the supposedly immoral behaviour in the financial sector in the decades preceding this crisis. These event resulted in interesting movies like Inside Job, Margin Call, The Big Short, Too big to fail, Wall Street (sequel 1 and 2) and The Wolf of Wall Street. Then you have several movies about individuals standing up against injustice and – literally – toxic behaviour of companies. Examples are Dark Waters, Erin Brockovich, Silkwood, and The Insider. Furthermore, there are the more informative movies and the documentaries, like #Dieselgate, Food Inc., The Corporation, and Enron: The smartest guys in the room. Actually, you can spend entire weeks on watching movies that display lapses of ethical judgment and blatant indecent behaviour. What is behind this behaviour and these actions of companies – and what does it take to do things right? That is what this course is all about.
Literature	Overview of the literature: * Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on justice: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice/ * Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on consequentialism, https://seop.illc.uva.nl/entries/consequentialism/ * Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on deontology, https://seop.illc.uva.nl/entries/ethics-deontological/ * Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on virtues ethics, https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-virtue/ * Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy on * Michael Sandel (2013), Market Reasoning as Moral Reasoning, Journal of Economic Perspectives, Volume 27, Number 4—Fall 2013—Pages 121–14 * Bovens, M. (1998). The Quest for Responsibility. Cambridge University Press, 22-42 & 106-134 * Trotter et al. (1989), Bhopal, India and Union Carbide, Journal of Business Ethics 8: 439-454 * Ripken, S. (2009), Corporations are people too: a multi-dimensional approach to the corporate personhood puzzle, Fordham Journal of Corporate & Financial Law, Vol. 15, Issue 1 * Friedman, M. (1970). The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits. The New York Times Magazine, 1-5 * Freeman, R.E., Martin K. & Parmar, B. (2007). Stakeholder Capitalism. Journal of Business Ethics, Vol. 74, 63-77. * Abel Diaz Gonzalez and Nikolay A. Dentchev (2020), Ecosystems in support of social entrepreneurs: a literature review, Social Entrepreneurship Journal * Korschun, D. (2015). Boundary-Spanning Employees and Relationships with External Stakeholders: A Social Identity Approach. Academy of Management Review, 40(4), 611–629. * Porter, M. & Kramer, M. (2011). Creating Shared Value. Harvard Business Review, 63-77 * Crane, A., Palazzo, G., Spence, L.J. & Matten, D. (2014). Contesting the Value of "Creating Shared Value". California Management Review, Vol 56, No. 2, 130-153 * Badaracco, J., How to Tackle Your Toughest Decisions, Harvard Business Review, 2016 * Lawton, A., & Páez, I. (2015). Developing a Framework for Ethical Leadership. Journal of Business Ethics, 130(3), 639–649. * Ebrahim A., Rangan, K. (2014), What Impact? A framework for measuring the scale and scope of social performance, California Management Review, Spring, Vol. 56, 3, p.118- * Gugerty, M., Karlan, D. (2018), Ten Reasons Not to Measure Impact – and What to Do Instead, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Summer, p. 41-47 * Ton Donaldson & Thomas Dunfee's (1999) When Ethics Travels, California Management Review, Vol. 41 No. 4, Summer, p. 45-63. * Peikai Li, Jian-Min Sun & Toon W. Taris (2022) Differentiating between gift giving and bribing in China: a guanxi perspective, Ethics & Behavior, 32:4, 307-325.
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.
Transitional Regulations	TRANSITIONAL REGULATIONS <ul class="trcohorts"> - Bachelor Fiscal Economics - In 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered. - In 2026-2027 exam/resit opportunities are offered. - From 2027-2028 onwards, the course is cancelled. <table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2024-2025 - 2025-2026</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2026-2027</td><td> </td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2027-2028 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table>
Teaching methods	Lecture / Assignment
Assessment methods	Attendance / Participation / Assignment
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 Econometrics and Operations Research	Year 3 Elective Courses
Bachelor Fiscal Economics	In transition - Year 2 Compulsory Courses
Bachelor Fiscal Economics	In transition - Year 3 Elective Courses
Bachelor International Business - Emerging Markets	Year 3 Elective Courses
Bachelor International Business	Year 3 Ethics Elecs - Maj Accounting
Bachelor International Business	Year 3 Ethics Elecs - Maj Finance
Bachelor International Business	Year 3 Ethics Elecs - Maj Inf Mgmt
Bachelor International Business	Year 3 Ethics Elecs - Maj Marketing
Bachelor International Business	Year 3 Ethics Elecs - Maj Org
Bachelor International Business	Year 3 Ethics Elecs - Maj SCM
Bachelor International Business	Year 3 Ethics Elecs - Maj Strategy
SBE Exchange Bachelor	Bachelor Exchange Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Bachelor Exchange Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Bachelor Courses