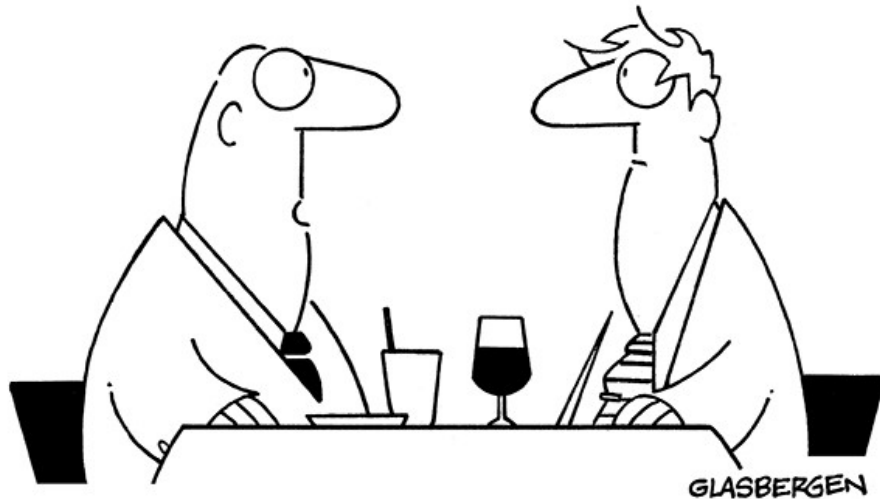


134.220 Business and Professional Ethics¹

– Course Outline and Student Guide² –



“I underpay my employees, use unethical tax strategies and pollute the environment, but it’s OK — I outsource my guilt to a firm overseas.”

Teaching Staff

Lecturer and Course Coordinator:

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Tutor:

Adam Dalglish (Wellington)

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By default, all live meetings in this distance-taught course will be conducted online.³ For that, please make sure you have access to a Zoom account (which can be created free of charge for personal use⁴), and that you have installed and properly set up the Zoom videoconferencing app on your device.⁵

¹ For latest information on course details like prerequisites, restrictions, withdrawal dates, venues, and fees, please check online at https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/programme-course/course.cfm?course_code=134220 (select the mode and location for which you’re enrolled).

² This outline remains subject to change, especially to account for latest developments in business and society, and to address the particular interests and needs of our students.

³ All URLs needed to dial into these meetings will be published on our course page in Stream.

⁴ At <http://zoom.us>.

⁵ For guides on how to use the app and do other Zoom-related tasks, visit <http://explore.zoom.us/resources>.

During teaching weeks, Adam holds regular online office hours (day and timeslot to be announced).⁶ If you want to have a live meeting outside of that window, please email for availabilities first. Otherwise, you can always message us via the *Ask Your Lecturer* forum in Stream.

If you have subject-related questions or ideas, please bring them up during our live online meetings in Zoom or post them in our online forums in Stream. That way, other students too have an opportunity to think about them and offer their perspective. Always remember: if you have a philosophical question or thought, it'll likely be of interest to your fellow classmates too.

Course Subject

This paper will introduce you to the practice of normative ethical reasoning, with a particular focus on the business context.

In general, we start with reflections upon our pre-theoretical understanding of typical values, norms, roles, and activities in the business professions. Once we've familiarised ourselves with various perspectives originating in diverse ethical traditions (eg, Kantian, consequentialist, virtue, and care ethics), we scrutinise that understanding and develop more comprehensive views about how we should act to preserve and promote what we as moral agents have reason to value.

By the end of the course, we want to have formulated and strengthened some of our own ideas about which professional/business activities do (or don't) qualify as ethical – and why. In particular, we want to be able to give well-reasoned answers to questions like these:

- What's the link between ethics and the law?
- What is ethically objectionable about sweatshops, deceptive sales practices, and cost-benefit analysis?
- What can indigenous ethics teach us about good (and bad) business, and how does the notion of tragedy come into it?
- Is whistle-blowing morally permissible or obligatory? When, and when not?
- What do the internal goods of a practice have to do with ethics, and how can practices become corrupted?
- What are the links between the wrong-doing of an organisation and the individual responsibility of a business professional who works for or at it?

Semester Dates and Class Timetable

Lecture period: 15 November 2021 to 1 February 2022 (*circa 10 weeks, break excluded*⁷)

Mid-semester break: 24 December 2021 to 5 January 2022 (*circa 2 weeks*)

⁶ The URL needed to dial into office hours will be published in Stream.

⁷ Six weeks before Christmas, and four weeks in the new year.

Final Test: Our final assessment takes the form of an online (take-home) assignment between 4-11 February 2022. During that period, you can take the test whenever it suits you (access through our course page in Stream).

Weekly pre-recorded lectures:

- Videos and other study materials will be made available via Stream

Weekly live online discussions:

- Zoom meetings at agreed-upon day(s) and time(s)⁸
- Meetings will be recorded and made available via Stream

For information about dates for withdrawing from this paper, please check course information online⁹ (select mode and location for which you're enrolled).

Course Modules and Weekly Topics

All weekly readings will be provided as electronic documents through our course page in Stream.

Week	Topic
Zero ¹⁰	Approaching (Business) Ethics
1	Ethics, Law, and Relativism
2	Sweatshops and the Ethics of the Person
3	Ford's Pinto and the Ethics of Happiness
4	Corrupted Practices and the Ethics of Virtue
5	The Ethics of Care and Relationship
6	Indigenous Ethical Concepts and Caring
<i>Study Break (Christmas/New Year)</i>	
7	Whakapapa and Tragedy in (Business) Ethics
8	Codes of Ethics (and the Golden Rule)
9	The Ethics of Whistleblowing
10	Organisational Wrongs and Individual Responsibility
Eleven ¹⁰	Work and the Good Life

⁸ Starting in week 1; meeting schedule to be determined on the basis of an online poll in week Zero.

⁹ http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/programme-course/course.cfm?course_code=134220

¹⁰ Given that summer school is two weeks shorter than Massey University's regular semesters, the topic of week Zero is not officially part of the course schedule. However, we invite students to familiarise themselves with, and reflect on, the subject nevertheless, because we believe that it rounds off our course content overall.

Expectations of You

This course will be taught in a blended format, meaning that the core lecture content will be provided online through our course page, and that discussions will be conducted both live in meetings and asynchronously through our Stream forums.

As a reminder, this course is worth 15 credits. It means that you should expect to devote at least an average of 10-12 hours each week to reading, study, discussion, and preparing assessments related to this class.

Meaningful Engagement and Participation in Online Platforms and In-Class Activities

You may find some of the material challenging throughout the course. If this is the case, rest assured that you will not be the only student in that position. Don't hesitate to raise your hand during live discussion meetings, especially if you don't understand something. You're also very welcome to contact the tutor with your question(s) during office hours, through our forums, or via email. We do ask that you refrain from personal conversations in our live meetings, and also recommend that you avoid dividing your attention between what's happening in the meeting and other things (eg, news, email, Facebook, WhatsApp, and the likes).

Be respectful of the comments, ideas, and questions discussed and posed by others – differing opinions make the course interesting and are encouraged. Always remain courteous and respectful of others, both during live meetings and when you pursue philosophical discussion after class (eg, in our Stream forums).

Assessments and Grades

Quizzes (worth 20 percent total): For weeks 2-5, students have to complete two quizzes worth 10 percent each. The content of the quizzes tends to revolve around our course readings, and they will be in multiple-choice and/or short-answer format.

Course essay (worth 40 percent total): Addressing a topic that relates to the material of the first half of the course¹¹, students first have to hand in an essay draft of 500 words (worth 10%). Taking into account comments and improvement suggestions provided by teaching staff, they then continue to develop their arguments and submit a 2,000-word essay.

Final test (worth 40 percent total): Addressing questions that relate to the material of the second half of the course, students have to sit a final online test. That assessment will be made up of 5-6 questions total, and students have to write essays on *any two* of them.

Optional plussage (worth 5 percent total): To encourage philosophical discussion, students can earn up to five additional percent for their activity in our online course forums in Stream. For each week in which they *both* create an original post that addresses that week's class material *and* reply

¹¹ Essay topic(s) will be announced in Stream.

to the post of another student, they can earn 1 percent (up to 5 percent max). To qualify, posts have to be well thought-out and respectful¹².

#	Assessment	Weight	Comments	Due date(s)
1	Quizzes	20% total	Students submit responses to multiple-choice or short-answer questions that cover the first half of the course.	12 Dec 2021 9 Jan 2022
2	Essay plan	10% total	Students submit a 500-word outline of the ethical issues they have identified as well as an outline of key arguments they are planning to make in their essay.	23 Dec 2021
3	Course essay	30%	Students submit a 2,000-word essay on a set topic relevant to the material of the first half of the course.	31 Jan 2022
4	Final test	40%	Students submit short essays to two questions covering the second part of the course.	Week of 4-11 Feb 2022
	Plussage	5%	Bonus percentage for being active in our weekly Stream forums.	

You're expected to complete all assignments on time. Contact the lecturer in charge of the relevant assignment at least 24 hours before the due date if you need an extension. Extensions are only granted in special circumstances (including, but not limited to, medical emergencies) and are given on a case-by-case basis. Late assignments will receive a 5% reduction for each week late (partial late weeks receive the full 5% reduction).

Assignments handed in on the due date will be returned within a 3-week period. Assignments handed in after the due date will be marked at the discretion of the lecturer.

As the final test is conducted outside the teaching period, its results will not be entered in (and communicated through) Stream. Instead, final test marks become part of your overall course mark that will be made available to you centrally through the University at the end of the semester.

Plagiarism

Assignments 2 and 3 must be submitted via dedicated electronic dropboxes in Stream, and submissions for assessment 4 are made through Stream as well. In doing so, they will be processed through Turnitin, a service designed to detect how much of a piece of writing is not the students own work and flag potential cases of plagiarism. Often, these flags result from poor referencing practice, which we try to address by helping you to improve your essay-writing technique. However, sometimes they indicate serious attempts at someone presenting the work of others as his or her own (see *Academic Integrity* below for more details).

¹² Our judgement in that regard is final.

For details about plagiarism, please visit:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/referencing/plagiarism.php>

For details about Turnitin, please visit:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/referencing/turnitin.php>

Course Policies

Conditions for Aegrotat Pass and Impaired Performance

If you are prevented by illness, injury or serious crisis from attending a compulsory learning experience, an examination or completing an element of assessment (worth 10% or more) by the due date, or if you consider that your performance has been seriously impaired by such circumstances, you may apply for aegrotat or impaired performance consideration. You must apply on the Aegrotat & Impaired Performance Application form available from the Massey University website. The completed form must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a health professional, and/or corroborating evidence.

All relevant details and forms are available here:

https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/exams/before-your-exams/aegrotat-impaired-performance/aegrotat-impaired-performance_home.cfm

Disability Disclosure

Any student with a physical or mental health problem which may affect performance during the course activities for this paper is encouraged to inform the Course Controller. Consult the Student Health and Counselling Centre (extension 41410) if you are in doubt. The provision of this information is voluntary. It is important that you should make known any health conditions which may affect your safety or the safety of others. Contact the Disabilities Coordinator, Gerard Chow, on extension 43203.

Grievance Procedures

A student who claims that he/she has sustained academic disadvantage as a result of the actions of a University staff member should use the University Grievance Procedures. Students, whenever practicable, should in the first instance approach the University staff member concerned. If the grievance is unresolved with the staff member concerned, the student should then contact the relevant Head of Institute/School/Department or College office for further information on the procedures. The procedures can be found on the University website in the University Calendar.

Academic Integrity

It is mandatory that any assessment items that you submit during your University study are your own work. Massey University takes a firm stance on academic misconduct, such as plagiarism and any form of cheating.

Plagiarism is the copying or paraphrasing of another person's work, whether published or unpublished, without clearly acknowledging it. It includes copying the work of other students and reusing work previously submitted by yourself for another Course.

Academic integrity breaches impact on students as it disadvantages honest students and undermines the credibility of your qualification. Massey has purchased a licence to utilise Turnitin, a text-matching web application to assist with the detection of copying. Assignments submitted to Turnitin will be compared with material available on the world wide web including electronic books, journals, newspapers, cheat sites (or course mills), web pages and previously submitted assignments. Your lecturer will let you know if your assignments are going to be submitted to Turnitin.

This is our policy of dealing with serious cases of plagiarism:

1. As a minimum, any and all plagiarised portions of your submission count as non-existent, and your work will be marked only on the remainder. This results in a significantly reduced assignment mark, usually far below passing grade. In case of repeat offences, the submission may receive zero marks.
2. We refer the case to our Head of Programme, who will then meet with you to discuss the seriousness of your offence.
3. We pass information about the offence to the University. As a result, repeat offences can be tracked not only across a difference papers within a programme, but across courses at Massey University as a whole.

See the *Academic Integrity Guide for Students* on the University website for more information:

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/university-management/avc-academic/academic-integrity/integrity-home.cfm>

The Guide steps you through the University Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures. For example, you will find definitions of academic integrity misconduct, such as plagiarism; how misconduct is determined and managed; and where to find resources and assistance to help develop the skills of academic writing, exam preparation and time management. These skills will help you approach university study with academic integrity.

Additional Policies

Please be polite and turn off your cell phones during the class period. If mobile phones are seen or heard, you may be asked to leave the class.

While the use of laptops is permitted, they are to be used for taking notes or adding to class discussion. Any other use of laptops may result in you being asked to leave class, and you will be prohibited from using your computer in class in the future.

Library

The Massey University Library provides resources and help to support your study. To search, borrow, request, renew books, articles, videos, and ebooks, visit:

https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/research/library/library_home.cfm

Learn how to search specific databases, reference, attend workshops and more. You can also log in to your *MyLibrary* record to check your due dates, renew your books, view your reading history and request items from the library catalogue. Below is the Library's contact information:

Phone: 0800 MASSEY (0800 627 739), ask for the Library
Call direct: +64 6 350 5670, extension 2880
Email: library@massey.ac.nz

Additional Services for Students

Academic Support Request Form

A web-based Academic Support Request form is located within the OWLL (Online Writing and Learning Link) website. Distance students can submit requests, ranging from help about writing assignments to effective ways of learning in the university setting. It does not give specific content-based assistance. Consultants will respond to these requests by the following business day.

Go to:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/about-OWLL/contact.php>

Assignment review: Pre-reading Service

This free service offers all students an opportunity to send draft assignment to CTL Writing Consultants for review and advice. They will dedicate 1 hour (undergraduate students) or 1½ hours (postgraduate students) to your review.

Allow 3 working days for assignment turnaround. (The service is closed on public holidays, university holidays and over the Christmas break.)

Go to:

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/programme-course/planning/academic-skills-support/pre-reading/extramural-assignment-pre-reading-service.cfm>

Academic Q + A

To ask any question related to the academic skills of writing, researching, referencing, or to see what other students have asked and read the answers, go to the Academic Q + A discussion board which can be found on the Academic Writing and Learning Support course on Stream. A Learning Consultant from the Centre for Teaching and Learning will answer all questions within 24 working hours and other students will often contribute too.

You can make an appointment to discuss either study skills, using Stream effectively or the review of an assignment with a Learning/Writing Consultant. Make sure you book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Go to:

<http://stream.massey.ac.nz/mod/forum/view.php?id=169>

Study Workshops

Each campus offers a series of workshops to cater to the wide genre of students ranging from first year students to postgraduates. Students will be able to participate in on presentations that cover strategies for writing assignments to effective time management. Students can also attend these workshops off-campus from wherever they are in the country.

For information go to:

<http://owll.massey.ac.nz/about-OWLL/workshops.php>

Writing and Study Skills Handouts

A large collection of handouts on topics ranging from the correct way of referencing to effective exam strategies is available. View these online or request a hard copy if you do not have Internet access. In particular, the Centre for Teaching and Learning have created an Academic Writing: A Guide to Tertiary Level.

Go to:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/about-OWLL/handouts.php>

Feeling Overwhelmed?

Are you...

- Having doubts, sudden feelings of incompetence?
- Having awful realisations of time running out?
- In other words, thinking of withdrawing?

Before you do, ask yourself...

- Will I regret this later?
- Will I feel better after a cup of coffee / the baby has gone to sleep / the weather has improved?
- Do I really have to decide now?
- Should I write to or phone my course coordinator?

Tell yourself...

- I've got this far, I might as well finish.
- I have the right kind of reasons to ask for an extension of time for the assignment.
- I could even send in a draft outline if I am confused and don't know if I'm on the right track.
- There are people around who can help if I ask.

Do...

- Talk about it with your Course coordinator. Often students withdraw because, working in isolation, they do not realise that other students are having the same problems and in fact, compared to others, they are doing very well. Make contact and find out how you are going, and what suggestions the Course coordinator can make to help you. Discuss withdrawing with your family, your employer and others important to you.
- Get on with what needs to be done now (leave future tasks to the future).

If after all that you find you have no alternative but to withdraw, then...

- Find the information you need here:
https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/admission/enrolment/change_withdraw_study.cfm

- However, please contact us too, if you possibly can. We're interested to hear what your problems have been, and whether there is some way I can make it possible for you to take this course again in a future year.

The only way you can be withdrawn or change your course is to notify the Enrolment Office. Writing to the Course coordinator or tutor does not affect your withdrawal.

OWLL Resources

Massey's Online Writing and Learning Link (OWLL)

OWLL is Massey University's gateway to a wide range of study and writing resources. All students, whether internal or distance, undergraduate or postgraduate, native English speaking or ESOL, can use this website to develop their academic skills.

Go to:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz>

This website is an up-to-date resource for:

- Academic writing
- Referencing
- Writing essays
- Writing reports
- Planning your time

Various interactive referencing tools helps you with every type of reference you may come across. The OWLL website contains information and workshops to assist you with your study.

Go to:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/main/referencing.php>