



**JOHN FELICE  
ROME CENTER**

**MGMT 321: International Business Ethics  
Syllabus**

**John Felice Rome Center**

Fall 2026

Tuesdays & Thursdays | 5:45-6:30pm

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 4:00-5:30pm  
(by appointment)

**Course Description**

In this course, we will examine the ethical challenges and moral dilemmas that arise in contemporary international business. We will begin by studying the main philosophical foundations of ethical thought, including an introduction to the Social Doctrine of the Church and its relevance to ethical decision-making in business. The course introduces key theories of ethical reasoning—including utilitarianism, deontology, social contract theory, and stakeholder theory—in order to demonstrate how these frameworks can guide decision-making in multinational corporations, international trade, and corporate governance. Using practical examples, we will explore how ethical principles intersect with business decisions in global markets, addressing issues such as corporate responsibility, cultural diversity, human rights, labor standards, and stakeholder interests. Through case studies, readings, and class discussions, students will learn to identify ethical conflicts, evaluate competing values, and develop strategies for responsible and culturally informed business practices in a global context.

*(This syllabus is subject to change and changes will be announced accordingly to the class.)*

**Learning Outcomes**

Through the following topics, students will develop a thorough understanding of contemporary ethical issues in business. In doing so, by the end of the course, they should be able to:

- 1) ***Demonstrate understanding of the main philosophical foundations of ethical thought, including classical ethical theories and the Social Doctrine of the Church.***
- 2) ***Critically analyze ethical challenges and moral dilemmas in international business, considering cultural, religious, legal, and institutional contexts.***
- 3) ***Evaluate competing values and conflicting interests in global business, including corporate responsibility, human rights, labor standards, and stakeholder demands.***
- 4) ***Develop reasoned, culturally informed strategies for ethical decision-making in multinational corporations, trade, and governance.***

**Required Text / Materials**

All reading materials will be made available on the Sakai platform. In any case, the main bibliography consists of the following two books:

- Andrew Crane and Dirk Matten, *Business Ethics* (fourth edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- O. C. Ferrel, John Fraedrich, and Linda Ferrel, *Business Ethics: Ethical Decision Makings & Cases* (13<sup>th</sup> Edition), Boston: Cengage Learning, 2022.

**Attendance Policy**

In accordance with the Rome Center mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, and in compliance with full-time student visa status, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy.



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Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student and synonymous with academic success. Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Lateness or leaving class early will impact the course grade at the professor’s discretion. All absences, including medical absences, will be treated the same, unless they are documented long-term conditions or emergencies. Such situations will be evaluated case-by-case by the Academic Affairs office.

**Once-a-week classes:**

- After 1 absence, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class.
- Missing 3 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).

**Twice-a-week classes:**

- After 2 absences, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class.
- Missing 6 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).

**Three-times-a week classes:**

- After 2 absences, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class.
- Missing 6 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).

**Evaluation**

<b>Participation</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Project: Ethical Business Strategy</b>	<b>35%</b>

**Participation:** Demonstrated by good class attendance and timely completion of assignments. Active class participation and contribution are important. Participation entails both actively listening and sharing in the working groups. Some quizzes are included in the final score.

**Midterm Exam and Final Exam:** Serves as the course’s final assessment, evaluating the comprehensive understanding and integration of the course material. This exam will test students’ grasp of the key themes and their ability to critically engage with the course content.

**Project:** Students are expected to design a business proposal that addresses real-world ethical dilemmas. They will imagine a core business in order to identify potential ethical challenges, apply ethical reasoning frameworks (such as utilitarianism, deontology, social contract theory, and stakeholder theory), and develop strategies to resolve or manage these dilemmas responsibly. The project is assessed in three components: an initial project proposal (10%), a written paper presenting the ethical analysis and proposed solutions (15%), and an oral presentation of the business plan, including responses to ethical dilemmas that arise during project discussions and peer review (10%), for a total of 35% of the course grade. This project emphasizes both critical thinking and the practical application of ethical principles in international business contexts. The final paper should be between 4,000 and 4,500 words.

**Grading**

94-100: A	80-83: B-	67-69: D+
90-93: A-	77-79: C+	60-66: D
87-89: B+	74-76: C	59 or lower: F
84-86: B	70-73: C-	



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Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are unacceptable at the the Rome Center and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: <https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/undergraduate/>. You are responsible to comply with the LUC University Catalog.

**Late or Missed Assignments & Exam Policy**

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor. *As per the JFRC academic policies, students who miss any scheduled exam or quiz, including a final exam at the assigned hours will not be permitted to sit for a make-up examination without approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Permission is given rarely and only for grave reason; travel is not considered a grave reason. Make-up exams will only be given for documented absences.*

**Accessibility Accommodations**

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) requiring academic accommodations should contact the Academic Affairs office at the John Felice Rome Center during the first week of classes.

**Statement on Title IX**

The Rome Center follows Loyola’s [Comprehensive Policy and Procedures for Addressing Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation](#) and will comply with those as indicated and instructed.

**Course Schedule**

**Week One** | *September 1* | Presentation of the Syllabus | The Importance of Business Ethics

**Week One** | *September 3* | Philosophical foundations of ethical thought, Part I—Consequentialist vs. deontological approaches

**Week Two** | *September 8* | Philosophical foundations of ethical thought, Part II—Utilitarianism, Deontology, Social Contract Theory, and Stakeholder Theory

**Week Two** | *September 10* | Philosophical foundations of ethical thought, Part II—Religion in Business: How Faith Influences the Actions of Economic Agents | Social Doctrine of the Church

**Week Three** | *September 15* | **First Quiz** | International Labor Standards and Human Rights in Business

**Week Three** | *September 17* | Justice in International Trade and Employment Practices—Case-Study

**Week Four** | *September 22* | Understanding Externalities: Theory and Concepts

**Week Four** | *September 24* | Applying Externalities to Ethical Decision-Making—Two Case-Studies

**Week Five** | *September 29* | **Second Quiz** | Ethical Issues in Digital Business and Data Privacy I—Case-Study

**Week Five** | *October 1* | Analysis of Real-World Business Dilemmas | Group Exercise: Using Ethical Frameworks

**Week Seven** | *October 6* | **Midterm Exam**



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**Week Seven** | *October 8* | Midterm Exam Corrections | Project Overview: Brainstorming Business Ideas and Identifying Ethical Challenges (Class Discussion Included)

**Week Eight** | *October 20* | Ethical Issues in Digital Business and Data Privacy II—Case-Study

**Week Eight** | *October 22* | Environmental Responsibility in Business—Case-Study

**Week Nine** | *October 27* | **Third Quiz** | Corruption and Ethical Challenges in Global Markets

**Week Nine** | *October 29* | Anti-Corruption Legislation, Compliance Systems, and Corporate Governance

**Week Ten** | *November 3* | Case Study: Volkswagen and Corporate Ethics After the Emissions Scandal

**Week Ten** | *November 5* | Globalization as a context for business ethics

**Week Eleven** | *November 10* | **Fourth Quiz** | Iris Marion Young, “Global Labor Justice.”

**Week Eleven** | *November 12* | The 2008 Subprime Crisis: A Documentary | Discussion on Financial Responsibility

**Week Twelve** | *November 17* | **Study Visit: Mondo Italia Ramos Immigration S.R.L.S.**—Exploring Corporate Practices in Social Inclusion and Immigrant Rights

**Week Twelve** | *November 19* | Case Study: Starbucks and Corporate Social Responsibility

**Week Thirteen** | *November 24* | **Study Visit: Curia Generalis of the Society of Jesus**—Ignatian Leadership as a Model for Ethical Decision-Making in Contemporary Business Contexts

**Week Fourteen** | *December 3* | Project Presentations I

**Week Fifteenth** | *December 8* | Project Presentations I

**Week Fifteenth** | *December 10* | **Final Exam**