# Business Ethics

## Prof. Mariachiara Tallacchini

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course will enable students to recognize, analyze, and apply ethical reasoning in business contexts; it will also aim to strengthen their ability to appropriately respond to, and provide, leadership regarding ethical issues in complex and dynamic corporate environments. The course will illustrate the major themes and approaches in business ethics, from a historical and theoretical perspective, and their connections with social responsibilities. A special focus will concern the impacts of the digital revolution on business ethics as well as the ethical preparedness and response in conditions of emergency.

***LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. recognize ethical issues in business and analyze/apply different ethical approaches to business issues in complex and global contexts;

2. develop self-awareness about their personal ethical approaches and the capability to harmonize them with other visions in complex business environments;

3. interpret and adequately implement ethical rules in specific business situations;

4. demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to articulate ethical reasoning and conclusions in business contexts, and examine the consequences of unethical and ethical business decisions;

5. discuss and adapt to scenarios of interactions between business and digital ethics;

6. prepare and respond ethically to conditions of emergency.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on the following topics: The meaning and relevance of business ethics; Business ethics, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy; Principles of business ethics between philosophers and managers; Ethical theories: deontology, consequentialisms, virtue ethics, ethics of care, responsibility; The institutionalization of business ethics, ethical cultures, and codes of ethics; Ethical decision-making and leadership: individual and organizational factors; The digital revolution: digital ethics and business ethics; Living and working in conditions of uncertainty: ethical preparedness and response.

***READING LIST***

Reading materials (chpaters of books, articles, videos) for both attending and non-attending

students will be made available online by the teacher.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The module encompasses lectures, class discussions, videos, presentations of case studies, invited experts’ contributions. The format of the course is essentially interactive: attendance and active participation in the class are strongly recommended.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Grades for attending students will be assessed through intermediate assignments and group presentations on the topics of the course, a written exercise discussing a complex ethical case, and active participation (questions, comments, discussions) in the class. The final grade will be the result of the following components:

- Intermediate assignments and group presetations: 50%.

- Written exercise: 40%.

- Active participation in the class: 10%

Students who are unable to attend the classes will take a written exam encompassing multiple choice questions, open questions, and an analysis of case studies. All the reading materials for the preparation of the exam will be made available on the Blackboard website of the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is an introduction to the major themes and theories in business ethics and does not require any prerequisites. Information on office hours are available on the teacher's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it and on Blackboard. For information and appointments, pelase contact the teacher at her email: mariachiara.tallacchini@unicatt.it