# Business Ethics

## Prof. Mariachiara Tallacchini

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

The course will illustrate the major themes and approaches in business ethics, looking at managerial and philosophical visions, both 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 proactivity, preparedness, and ability to respond in conditions of emergency.

The course will enable students to recognize, analyze, and apply several forms of ethical reasoning in business contexts. It will also strengthen their ability to appropriately address ethical issues in complex and dynamic corporate environments with sensitive leadership skills.

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

1. recognize and analyze ethical aspects in business practices and identify different ethical paths in providing solutions to ethical business issues in global dynamic contexts;

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

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

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

5. discuss and adapt to digital ethics scenarios in business and digital business;

6. anticipate, prepare and respond ethically to conditions of emergency.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on the following topics: The origins, meaning, and relevance of business ethics; Business ethics, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy; Principles of business ethics from the perspectives of 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 proactivity, preparedness and response. Moreover, the course will provide a special focus on start-up companies that are innovative as to their actors, products, processes, economic visions, and (ethical) behaviors.

***READING LIST***

All reading materials (chapters of books, articles, videos) for the preparation of the exam

(for both attending and non-attending students) will be made available online on Blackboard

by the teacher at the beginning of the course.

The Syllabus of the course with the detail of each class will be available on Blackboard

before the beginning of the course.

***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 encouraged.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

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

- Intermediate and final group presentations: 60%.

- Written individual exercise: 40%.

Non attending students will take an individual written exam with 30 multiple choice questions and 5 open-ended questions on both theoretical problems and analysis of case studies. The final grade for non attending students will be the result of the following components:

- 30 multiple choice questions: 40%

- 5 open-ended questions: 60%

All reading materials for the preparation of the exam will be made available on the Blackboard pages at the beginning 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 prerequisite. All relevant ethical concepts and forms of reasoning will be introduced by the teacher during the course.

***OFFICE HOURS***

Information on office hours are available on the Blackboard webpages of the course. For appointments on different dates/hours, students can contact the teacher at: mariachiara.tallacchini@unicatt.it.