



Name of the course:

Business ethics and sustainability management

Name of the Professor and contact information:

Name: Prof. Dr. Matthias Sohn

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Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisites:

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ECTS-Credits:

6

Grading and form of assignment:

Written exam (75 %); Presentation (25%)

Course description:

Since the turn of the century, several accounting scandals (e.g., Enron), business scandals (e.g., Volkswagen), financial fraud offences (e.g., Bernard Madoff), and banking scandals (e.g., FX market manipulation) have caused severe consequences for companies, business sectors, and societies at large. All of this led to a distrust of the general public in private and public institutions around the world and initiatives that foster ethical decision making in business gained support. Business ethics is the study of appropriate business policies and practices regarding potentially controversial subjects including corporate governance, insider trading, bribery, discrimination, corporate social responsibility, and fiduciary responsibilities. The law often guides business ethics, but at other times business ethics provide a basic guideline that businesses can choose to follow to gain public approval. In this seminar, students will learn about the basic principles of business ethics and sustainability management, but also about the implications of business ethics for different stakeholders of the firm. Thus, this course will be divided in two parts with the first part giving an introduction to the topic and the second part discussing the implications of morality and ethics in business for different stakeholders, like shareholders, employees, or consumers.

Aim of the module (expected learning outcomes and competencies to be acquired):

Students will learn about different concepts and theories in business ethics (e.g., corporate social responsibility, corporate citizenship, or corporate compliance). We will also discuss how these concepts inform managerial behavior, as well as perception and behavior of different stakeholders. Students are expected to work both with theory and business cases and are expected to present and discuss their thoughts and opinions about current topics in

business ethics. This will enable students to translate complex theoretical input to practical behavior in business.

Reading list:

Crane, A., Matten, D., Glozer, S., & Spence, L. (2019). Business ethics: Managing corporate citizenship and sustainability in the age of globalization. Oxford University Press.