MANAGEMENT 308
Ethical, Social and Political Environment of Business

Instructor: Professor Rebecca Rigney
ASM 2135 (East Wing)
Messages with Megan Borders-- 277--2550

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment and I will be available prior to
and following class

TEXT: Lawrence, A.T., and Weber, J., Business and Society: Stakeholders, Ethics,
Public Policy, McGraw-Hill, 14th Edition

COURSE OVERVIEW

A corporation's success in the marketplace is as much a function of the way it meets its financial
goals and objectives as well as the way it manages its responsibility to the public,
owners/stockholders and governmental policies/changes. The values and principles of these
external stakeholder groups may differ significantly with one another; yet, they must be
reconciled by and with the corporation. Corporations are fundamentally people. There is an
inseparable nature of individual responsibility and corporate responsibility. Each individual within
the corporation must have a firm foundation for one's values to enable ethical decision making
and sound business judgments.

This course fulfills the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACAB)
accreditation requirements to provide an understanding of the social, political, and ethical issues
related to business. The AACAB recognizes that any business education is incomplete without
an examination of the increasingly complex ethical, social and political environment of business.
Although we will discuss ethical issues related to the conduct of business, this is not just a
course on "business ethics. Throughout the semester we will look at how the environment in
which a business operates affects different business functions, business and corporate level
strategy choices, and management behavior.

Course objectives/goals:

- Increase your understanding of different theories about corporate social
  responsibility and social performance
- Sharpen your critical thinking skills by challenging, asking probing questions, and
  evaluating ethical issues and problems in business and the social responsiveness of
  business
- Assist you in developing and mastering a broad based, generic skill in defining
  problems, evaluating potential outcomes, and recommending a course of action
- Learn the meaning of ethics, and apply various ethical principles to business
  activities
- Provide a venue for self examination of the foundations, values and beliefs that
  shape one's own principles and standards of behavior
CLASS ASSUMPTIONS
The instructor assumes that you will contribute your unique skills, experiences, and perspectives to the class. You are expected to prepare for each class session, actively participate in each class, and thoughtfully discuss the readings. You will bring an article to each class related to that class days reading assignment and be prepared to present the article information to the class. You will need to turn in the article at the end of the class period. You will receive from this class experience as much as you are willing to contribute to it. Students are expected to take an active role in constructing their unique learning experience.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS
Attendance: Class attendance is important and the University of New Mexico has a policy on attendance. Course materials are covered in the text, but lectures and class discussion are important to augment and clarify the text materials. Get to know your fellow students so that you will have a source for lecture notes, handouts, or other updates if you find it impossible to attend a particular session. Students who foresee problems with regard to attendance and/or preparation should discuss this with me prior to the class session. A MAXIMUM of TWO absences are permitted. Please do not undertake this course if you anticipate being absent more than two times. A portion of your grade will be based on active class participation. Each student is responsible for signing the attendance sheet at each class.

If you are a qualified person with disabilities who might need appropriate academic adjustments, please communicate with me as soon as possible so that we may make appropriate arrangements to meet your needs in a timely manner. Frequently, we will need to coordinate accommodating activities with other offices on campus. Course materials can be made available in alternative formats.

Assignments: Written assignments are to be handed in by the beginning of class on the day on which they are due. No late papers will be accepted. If you anticipate missing class the day a written assignment is due, you should submit the assignment in advance of the due date. All papers must be turned in via hard copy—e-mail and faxed submissions will not be accepted. You are strongly encouraged to retain a copy of each submitted assignment, as they may be discussed after they have been turned in.

Grading: The following grade contract implies that you are capable of choosing the grade you wish to achieve and that you will consult periodically with the instructor on how best you can prepare to achieve that grade. The minimum grade requirements are below:

- **C Grade (Satisfactory)**: At least a "C" grade on all papers. Completion of all readings and assignments demonstrated by active class participation and at least a grade of "C" on the team presentation.
- **B Grade (Good)**: At least a "B" grade on all papers. Completion of all readings and assignments demonstrated by active class participation and at least a grade of "B" on the team presentation.
- **A Grade (Excellent)**: At least a "B" grade on the first two papers and a grade of "A" on the final paper and a grade of "A" on the team presentation.

Ethical lapses such as plagiarism or copying are very serious and will result in a failing grade for the course. Academic honesty means performing all academic work without cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, exam misconduct, receiving assistance from any other person or using any source of information that is not common knowledge (unless that assistance or use is authorized by the person responsible for supervising the academic work or is fairly attributed to the source of assistance or information). Any violation of the Student Code of Conduct will be taken very seriously and appropriate sanctions will be applied. **OUR COMMITMENT:** "Anderson School of Management faculty, staff and students commit to values of trust, honesty, integrity, and accountability. We will not tolerate academic dishonesty." [www.mgt.unm.edu/honesty](http://www.mgt.unm.edu/honesty) for full text of ASM Academic Honesty Code.
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION

All papers are expected to be well-written and neat in appearance. All papers must be paginated and stapled. Proofread your work!

1. Personal Expectations Paper

Write a 2-3 page paper explaining, in some detail, your expectations and goals for the course. Provide some background information about yourself in order to contextualize your goals. You may want to refer to this first paper in future papers. If you have any particular concerns or challenges, please discuss these also.

2. Ethical, Social and Political Environment Practitioner Project and Paper

This assignment has two parts—a field component and a written component. You are to identify some individual who you believe has experience with the ethical, social and/or political environment. This can be a business person, educator, family member or friend, religious leader, etc. You will arrange to meet and interview this person about these current issues and ask about their thoughts on where we are today versus the past and perhaps ask them about their thoughts on the impact of this on the future. Use examples and quotations to illustrate your points and remember that your paper (4-5 pages in length) should be written as a case study essay and not as an interview. Conclude with substantive comments about your personal lessons and insights on ethical, social and political environment issues based upon your analysis and interview.

3. Final Ethical, Social & Political Environment Paper

The final paper should consist of a comprehensive analysis of ethical, social and/or environmental issue(s) that you believe will be particularly challenging to you in your current or future career, the future of business operations, or that represent a particular area of interest to you. The subject must have a practical emphasis and cannot be the result of only library work. You must include a complete bibliography. Papers must be well written (8 – 10 pages, not including the bibliography), analytically oriented, and must include your personal insights on what you are learning from this analysis. Be sure to integrate relevant concepts from the readings to demonstrate your understanding of key course concepts. This final paper may NOT be on the same topic as you did on the team project and presentation.

4. Team Project/Presentation – Ethical, Social and Political Environment of Business in the New Millennium

Each student will participate as a team member in a team of ~5 and be responsible for designing and presenting a creative class session for one hour. Each team must submit a written one page preliminary plan of action for review with the instructor. The team receives a group grade for this presentation. You must expand on one of the ethical business topics that the group believes will become a major factor in the future of business in the New Millennium. Be sure to rely on the individual and collective knowledge of your team members and bring their experiences into your presentation. Make it a memorable learning experience for all. Stretch your imagination, do original research—the main goal is to lead us on a learning adventure. You will need to hand out a presentation related article to all class members one week prior to your team presentation. A complete bibliography and copies of all overheads/handouts/exercises are to be submitted to the instructor prior to beginning the presentation.
Class Schedule

Jan 13 & 15  Class introduction, overview, and norms/Preface and Introduction  
Chapter 1 (Jan 15)

Jan 20 & 22  Chapters 2 & 3

Jan 27 & 29  Chapters 4 & 5  
Due: Personal Expectations Paper (Jan 29)

Feb 03 & 05  Chapters 6 & 7

Feb 10 & 12  Chapters 8 & 9

Feb 17 & 19  Chapters 10 & 11

Feb 24 & 26  Chapters 12 & 13

Mar 3 & 5  Chapters 14 & 15  
Due: Team Action Plans (Mar 5)

Mar 10 & 12  SPRING BREAK

Mar 17 & 19  Chapters 16 & 17  
Due: Practitioner Paper

Mar 24 & 26  Chapters 18 & 19  
Due: Final Paper Proposal (Mar 26)

Mar 31 & Apr 2  Presentation - Team Projects

Apr 7 & 9  Presentation - Team Projects

Apr 14 & 16  Presentation – Team Projects

Apr 21 & 23  Presentation – Team Projects

Apr 28 & 30  Presentation – Team Projects  
Due: Final Paper

*Articles for each class member due week preceding your teams presentation!

* ALL GROUP PROJECT EVALUATIONS/GRADES WILL BE GIVEN OUT ON 4/30