BUSL204

Business Ethics and Risk Management

S2 Evening 2019

Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Lecturer
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Credit points
3

Prerequisites
18cp at 100 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit is designed to present students with an understanding and wide appreciation of business ethics and risk management. A variety of ethical perspectives and topics are covered such as sweatshops, the environment and whistleblowing. Students are encouraged to discuss different ethical positions and to explore their own topics utilising the theoretical frameworks provided in this unit. By completing the unit, students will be equipped to engage with the ethical and risk management issues crucial to their future success.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are

available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

A good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business ethics and risk management.

A sound understanding of the major ethical theories that inform the literature.

An ability to relate ethical theories to relevant case studies and current events.

The ability to develop one's own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and the ability to present views with clarity and rigour.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Class Participation	10%	No	Ongoing
Tutorial Assignment	20%	No	Monday 26th August (5pm)
Case study Essay	30%	No	Friday 4th October (5pm)
Final Essay	40%	No	Friday 8th November (5pm)

Class Participation

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **10%**

Participation

Active participation is expected of BUSL 204 students as discussion is an essential part of developing ethical sensitivity and skill. Tutorials should be used by students to test their understanding of the unit in an environment where immediate feedback is available from the convenor or tutor. Students should prepare well for tutorials by watching lectures, reading prescribed chapters and articles, and preparing answers to discussion questions (available each week on iLearn), in advance of the tutorial. Students should be engaged with the issues relevant to the seminar and be involved in tutorial activities, particularly, responding to, and asking, questions. Being active is an important aspect of both study and professional practice, and tutorials will be of more benefit to all students if each individual is willing to participate.

Estimated student workload

Students are expected to spend approximately 3-5 hours per week reviewing relevant lectures, readings and discussion questions before attending class.

Marking criteria (out of 10):

< 5 - Does not Pass. Attend less than 80% of classes and / or no engagement in class activities.

5-6 /10 – Pass. Attend at least 80% of classes and engage in class exercises (e.g. group work).

7 / 10 - Credit. Attend at least 80% of classes, and some contributions to class discussion (e.g. questions or comments).

8 / 10 – Distinction. Attend at least 80% of classes, with regular contributions to class discussions.

9-10/10 – High Distinction. Attend at least 80% of classes, with excellent contributions to class discussions; for example, regularly asking and answering questions, and sharing relevant examples from current media or personal experience.

As the criteria above indicate, participation is more than attendance alone. Examples of conduct that may indicate participation include: preparing for class, reading appropriate material, being prepared to contribute to discussion of tutorial questions; listening to other students' contributions; bringing relevant materials (including prepared responses to discussion questions) to class; asking questions relevant to the material being discussed; responding to questions or requests and displaying an understanding of the relevant examples and concepts; forming and expressing an opinion in relation to the issues arising from the material being discussed; and, being engaged in the progress of the seminar and following the seminar discussion.

Deliverables

Peer and class discussion.

Preparation instructions

Reviewing lectures, readings and discussion questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A sound understanding of the major ethical theories that inform the literature.
- An ability to relate ethical theories to relevant case studies and current events.
- The ability to develop one's own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and the ability to present views with clarity and rigour.

Tutorial Assignment

Due: **Monday 26th August (5pm)**
Weighting: **20%**

Task

Questions will be available on iLearn. The task will be a maximum of 1200 words, and entail a set of short answer questions covering material discussed in lectures and tutorials in Weeks 1-4.

Submission

The assignment must be submitted on iLearn by 5pm Monday, 26th August.

Estimated student workload

Students are expected to spend approximately 3-5 hours per week reviewing prescribed readings and preparing for tutorials, and an additional 3-5 hours writing answers for their tutorial assignment.

Files uploaded to iLearn should be in the following format Surname_StudentID_week#.

Extensions and Penalties

Late topic submissions and written assignments will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission - 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved (in accordance with the policies and procedures).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- A good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business ethics and risk management.
- A sound understanding of the major ethical theories that inform the literature.
- An ability to relate ethical theories to relevant case studies and current events.

Case study Essay

Due: **Friday 4th October (5pm)**
Weighting: **30%**

Submission

The case study essay is to be submitted via iLearn by 5pm Friday, 4th October.

Questions will be available on iLearn by at least four weeks in advance of the due date. The questions will require applying ethics theory to a case.

Estimated student workload

Students are expected to spend approximately 15-20 hours of research for, and writing of, the case study essay.

Marking criteria

Detailed marking criteria will be provided on the unit webpage.

Deliverables

One essay of 1200-1500 words (**maximum)**, excluding references.

Preparation instructions

Detailed instructions will be provided on the unit webpage.

Extensions and Penalties

Late topic submissions and written assignments will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission - 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved (in accordance with the policies and procedures).

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- A sound understanding of the major ethical theories that inform the literature.
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Final Essay

Due: **Friday 8th November (5pm)**
Weighting: **40%**

The final essay is to be submitted via iLearn by Friday 8th November 5pm.

Questions will be available on iLearn by Friday 12th of October.

Estimated student workload

Students are expected to spend approximately 20-35 hours of research for, and writing of, the case study essay.

Marking criteria

Detailed marking criteria will be provided on the unit webpage.

Deliverables

One essay of 2000 words (**maximum)**, excluding references.

Preparation instructions

Detailed instructions will be provided on the unit webpage.

Extensions and Penalties

Late topic submissions and written assignments will be accepted up to 72 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission - 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in

which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved (in accordance with the policies and procedures).

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Delivery and Resources

Classes

BUSL204 will be presented via lectures and tutorials. **All lectures will be online**. Tutorials of 1.5 hours will operate throughout the semester. The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/.

Lectures

Video lectures will be available from iLearn.

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in Week 2 and are based on the previous week's lecture topic. Set readings for each week are available online, and discussion questions for tutorials will be released on iLearn in the week prior to the respective tutorial. Students are required to watch lectures, read the set readings, and prepare answers to the discussion questions before they attend their tutorial.

Prizes

Prizes for this unit are detailed on the following website:

http://www.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/undergraduate_degrees/prizes_scholarships

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

The prescribed text for this unit is:

Joseph DesJardins *An Introduction to Business Ethics* (**6th Edition**), (McGraw-Hill, New York, 2019) [* Note - this is a new edition since the 2018 version of this course].

The following text may also be helpful to students that wish to deepen their understanding of business and professional ethics:

Grace, D. & Cohen, S., *Business Ethics* (5th edition), (Oxford University Press, Melbourne,

2013).

Technology Used and Required

iLearn

To access the unit's online website on iLearn, students need to navigate to the following website http://ilearn.mq.edu.au.

As iLearn will be used extensively in this subject, students need to ensure that you access this website on a regular basis by using your university username/password details. Lecture notes should be downloaded from the website mentioned above and should be brought to the seminars. Always check the website for important information as this is our main way of communicating with you.

E-Resources

Discussion questions for tutorials, along with extra readings and references will be placed on a links under each week's topic on iLearn. Students need to download all relevant information to complete their tutorial questions and their learning objectives.

Requirements to satisfactorily complete the unit

Satisfactory completion of BUSL 204 is an overall passing grade. There is no requirement to achieve a passing grade in each individual assessment component, including the final essay. However, since each assessment component contributes to the overall learning outcomes of the unit, students are expected to complete each assessment task in order to maximise their educational experience.

Unit Schedule

Week	Date	Title	Topic	Theory	Tutorials & Events
1	29-Jul-19	**An introduction to Business Ethics**	Introduction	Introduction to main ethics theories	No tutorials
2	05-Aug-19	**Is Shareholder Value Enough? Capitalism and its Critics**	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Critical Theory 1	Tutorial 1
3	12-Aug-19	**A third way? Stakeholder ethics**	Sustainability Reporting	Stakeholder Theory	Tutorial 2
4	19-Aug-19	**Who shares wins? Labour outsourcing and the global economy**	Labour Outsourcing	Utilitarian ethics	Tutorial 3

5	26-Aug-19	**The same kind of different? The ethics of diversity**	Diversity and Discrimination	Kantian ethics	Tutorial 4 **** Tutorial Assignment Due (26th August) ****
6	2-Sep-19	**Customers – right, or ripped off?**	Customers	Virtue ethics	Tutorial 6
7	9-Sep-19	**Whose planet, which sustainability? Ethics and the Environment**	The Environment	Deep Ecology	Tutorial 7
	16-Sep-19	**BREAK**			
	23-Sep-19				
8	30-Sep-19	**Are you talking to me? Rights and responsibilities at work.**	Employee Rights And Responsibilities	Critical Theory 2	Tutorial 8. **** Case Study Essay Due (4th October) ****
9	7-Oct-19	**How simple is safety?**	Risk Management I	Postmodern ethics	Tutorial 9
10	14-Oct-19	**Enterprise Risk Management in a world of black swans**	Risk Management II	Eastern ethics	Tutorial 10
11	21-Oct-19	**Why your first day could wreck your career**	Risk Management III	Situationist ethics	Tutorial 11
12	28-Oct-19	**Contemporary Issues in Ethics and Risk Managment**	Current Issues		Tutorial 12. **
13	4-Nov-19	**Revision**			**Final Essay Due (8th November) ****

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public

- Special Consideration Policy *(**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

The nature of scholarly endeavour, dependent as it is on the work of others, binds all members of the University community to abide by the principles of academic honesty. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- all academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- all academic collaborations are acknowledged
- academic work is not falsified in any way
- when the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

Further information on the academic honesty can be found in the Macquarie University Academic Integrity Policy.

Grades

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

- HD - High Distinction
- D - Distinction
- CR - Credit
- P - Pass
- F - Fail

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Assessment Policy which is available at:

https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment

Grading Appeals and Final Examination Script Viewing

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for appeal before appealing your grade.

http://www.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/new_and_current_students/undergraduate_current_students/how_do_i/grade_appeals/

Supplementary Examination

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. Please note that the supplementary examination will be of the same format as the final examination.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/

offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- An ability to relate ethical theories to relevant case studies and current events.
- The ability to develop one’s own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and the ability to present views with clarity and rigour.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Case study Essay
- Final Essay

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business ethics and risk management.
- A sound understanding of the major ethical theories that inform the literature.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Tutorial Assignment
- Case study Essay
- Final Essay

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- An ability to relate ethical theories to relevant case studies and current events.
- The ability to develop one's own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and the ability to present views with clarity and rigour.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Tutorial Assignment
- Case study Essay
- Final Essay

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

- Case study Essay
- Final Essay

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Case study Essay
- Final Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- A good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business ethics and risk management.
- A sound understanding of the major ethical theories that inform the literature.
- An ability to relate ethical theories to relevant case studies and current events.
- The ability to develop one’s own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of the views and arguments presented in the unit, and the ability to present views with clarity and rigour.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Tutorial Assignment
- Case study Essay
- Final Essay

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work

with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment task

- Case study Essay

Changes from Previous Offering

A new (6th) edition of the course textbook has been released.

BUSL 204 has been updated to reflect feedback from prior years and recent developments in business ethics and risk management. In 2019, this includes a new topic on diversity and discrimination (Week 5), as well as an additional week on contemporary developments in ethics risk management (Week 12).

Research and practice

BUSL 204 makes extensive use of contemporary research in business ethics, including research by Dr Dale Tweedie the Unit Convenor and Assoc. Prof. James Hazelton a unit lecturer. The unit also examines contemporary practices in business ethics and requires students to examine a contemporary business ethics issue as their essay topic.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
17/07/2019	The submission date for final essay was corrected to Friday 8th of November.