Value Systems and Professional Ethics

**Instructor:** Peter Jacobsen **Course:** BUS 7200

**Office Phone**: 785-248-2533 **Term:** Fall, 2022

**Office:** Administration Building, Room 112-C, Business Division **Time:** Thurs 6:00-9:30PM

**E-mail:** [peter.jacobsen@ottawa.edu](mailto:peter.jacobsen@ottawa.edu) **Length: 8 WEEKS**

**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-11:30AM or by appointment

Overview:

Business programs tend to center on learning standard methods (accounting/finance/MIS), learning the scientific explanation behind business (economics), or learning the art of business (management/administration). However, this view of business lacks an important dimension— what *should* our goals in business be, and how *should* we accomplish them? In this class, we’ll examine these questions. We’ll discuss this central question inspired by our student handbook which reads:

Ottawa University seeks to present the Christian Faith in a setting where students are free to accept or reject it, *but not ignore it*. Confident in the belief that all truth is of God, OU promotes an atmosphere of free and open inquiry into *all aspects of knowledge*. (Emphasis added).

As such, we’ll consider this question particularly from a Christian perspective. We’ll also examine and understand other influential value systems. Finally, we’ll attempt to evaluate how different institutional environments impact these two key questions.

**Required Texts:**

Keller, T. (2012). Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God’s Work. Dutton. ISBN: 9781101600337

Chafuen, A. A. (2003). *Faith and liberty: The economic thought of the late scholastics*. Lexington Books.

Auxiliary texts:

Ethics and Business, An Introduction (Kevin Gibson).

Other readings will be suggested as needed.

Note: You may buy either the digital or physical versions of this book.

**Course Assignment Descriptions & Grading**

The means of evaluating your performance in the course is four-fold: Quizzes, Group Assignments, and a project.

**Quizzes**:

There will be weekly quizzes regarding the readings for that week (e.g. the week 2 quiz will be over the readings listed under week 2 in the syllabus). The lowest quiz will be dropped to make up for an emergency absence. There is no quiz week 1.

Quizzes will be 30% (300 points) of the grade.

**Reading Responses:**

Each week, students will be asked to submit a reading response. The reading response should be a few paragraphs describing what the student learned from readings, and students should also discuss their opinions of the readings. A good reading response will demonstrate 1) the student completed the readings for the week and 2) the student engaged in serious consideration of the ideas presented in the readings. Reading responses are due the Sunday before class and should based on the readings that will be discussed the following day. For example, the Sunday before the second class, students should provide a reading response for the readings under week 2 in the syllabus. No reading response is due for quiz 1 readings.

Reading responses will be 30% (300 points) of the grade.

**Participation:**

Students will be graded on their participation in class. While each class will involve a lecture component, we’ll also have significant time for in-class discussion. Participation is not limited to attendance alone— it involves active participation in discussions. Further, participation does not mean one person should dominate conversation. Rather, it involves finding a happy medium. As a liberal arts university, students should feel free to discuss their ideas and beliefs. Further, as a Christ-inspired community, it’s expected you’ll engage in a gracious way.

Participation will be 10% (100 points) of the grade.

**Presentation:**

Each week, a different group of students will be expected to present on one of the two sets of readings for that week. Presentations should be no less than 10 minutes. They should cover the major points of the readings and should offer up interesting questions left open in the readings that will make for worthwhile discussion. Although visual aids like Powerpoint may be helpful, they only should be used to the extent that they aid the presentation.

The presentation will be worth 30%

Addendum

In the case that official COVID-19 quarantines significantly effect the grading categories, the instructor reserves the right to change the nature of the grade components.

**Grading Scale**

The grading scale will be as follows:

Percentage of points earned Letter Grade

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

0-59 F

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1:**

Readings:  
A Friedman Doctrine: <https://www.nytimes.com/1970/09/13/archives/a-friedman-doctrine-the-social-responsibility-of-business-is-to.html>

America’s top CEOs say they are no longer putting shareholders before everyone else: <https://www.fastcompany.com/90391743/top-ceo-group-business-roundtable-drops-shareholder-primacy>

**Week 2:**

Readings:

1) Faith & Liberty (F&L) Ch1-2

2) Every Good Endeavor (EGE) Introduction, Ch 1

**Week 3:**

Readings:

1. F&L Ch3
2. EGE Ch2-3

**Week 4:**

Readings:

1) F&L Ch4-5

2) EGE Ch4-5

**Week 5**

Readings:

1) F&L Ch6-7

2) EGE Ch6-7

**Week 6:**

Readings:

1) F&L Ch8-9

2) EGE Ch8

**Week 7:**

Readings:

1) F&L Ch10-11

2) EGE Ch9-10

**Week 8:**

1) F&L 8-9

2) EGE Ch8

Readings:

1) F&L Ch12

2) EGE Ch11-12

This course schedule is tentative, and the instructor reserves the rights to modify dates/reading assignments ad needed.