I. COURSE TITLE: INBU 8946 SEMINARS IN SPECIAL TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL BUSINESS

CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITE: NONE

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Exam of current problems related with interregional and international business and with the handling of problems confronted daily by companies' management.

III. OBJECTIVES

A. Terminal and Capacitating Objectives
1. Develop critical awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of market economies from an ethical point of view.
   1.1 Identify the characteristics of ethical problems in management.
   1.2 Determine the managerial ethics and organizational design.
   1.3 Judge informed ethical choices.
   1.4 Value the responsibilities of business to its various stakeholders-employees, consumers, suppliers, the community, and society.
   1.5 Justify the relevance of ethics in modern management, specially in multinational enterprise.

2. Develop the analytic tools and research skills needed to address contemporary ethical problems in business.
   2.1 Examine ethical theories, using the utilitarian perspectives, to specific cases in business ethics with the goal of arriving at a moral judgment.
   2.2 Examine ethical theories, using the deontological perspectives, to specific cases in business ethics with the goal of arriving at a moral judgment.

3. Develop skills need by doctoral students to construct for themselves a conceptual framework for examining, and making decisions about, ethical practices in businesses and other organizations.
   3.1 Apply morality objectives
3. 2 Apply profit maximization objectives

IV. TOPICS

PART I: ETHICAL THEORIES AND INDIVIDUAL DECISION MAKING

A. CONSEQUENTIALIST vs DEONTOLOGICAL ETHICS
B. VIRTUE ETHICS
C. FEMINIST ETHICS
D. ETHICS AND DECISION MAKING IN AN ORGANIZATION

PART II: THE BUSINESS SOCIETY RELATIONSHIP

The first unit of the course should have prepared us to begin describing the specific relationship that business institutions have with the larger society. If this seems a little abstract, just think for a moment how the health and vitality of a business affects a community and the numerous social relationships in the community. It may be that the legal description of the business-society relationship (the sum of all its contractual obligations) doesn't exhaust the moral description of the relationship. In this unit, you will hear a variety of competing moral descriptions, along with arguments for each. Our cases (Saipan sweatshops and Multinational marketing) give us concrete examples of the way our understanding of the business-society relationship affects specific business practices. (Unit dates: 9/26-10/10)

PART III: ETHICS IN ORGANIZATIONS

A. RESPONSABILITY IN ORGANIZATIONS

Perhaps the most difficult theoretical issue in business ethics today concerns our understanding of responsibility for corporate wrongdoing. Most people think about ethical responsibility in terms of individual behavior because "being responsible" seems to require intending and only individuals have intentions. But is this a good argument? Can groups be held collectively responsible for their behavior? Can individuals engaged in self-interested decision-making be asked to consider the good of a group? The goal of this unit will be to give an informed and reflective answer to these questions.

B. ETHICS AND THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION

This topic provides an economic rationale for the observed fact that many multinationals adopt the same ethical standards in host countries that they adhere to in home countries. But are these standards really ethical? Using the notion of a market morality we argue that certain moral norms will tend to adopted due to the competitive morality of the marketplace.

Perhaps the most controversial issue in international business ethics focuses around the following question: When in Rome should you do as the Romans do? A politically correct stance has been that multinationals generally should be respectful of host country moral norms. After all a multinational should not be a cultural imperialist should it?
In a somewhat complicated argument to follow we argue that common standards ought to be adopted and that in fact they will be adopted. The first step of the argument is to show that, contrary to what might be expected, a multinational will want to impose its standards of business ethics and corporate responsibility on all its subsidiaries. If that argument is successful we will have shown that at the firm level when in Rome, one ought not to do as the Romans do.

PART IV: RELIGIOUS FAITH AND ECONOMIC ETHICS

Since 1891, Popes, individual Bishops and national conferences of Bishops have spoken out on issues of economic justice through the issuance of encyclicals and pastoral letters. They have attempted to articulate a clearly Christian view on issues of economic ethics and justice. Mainstream Protestant churches also have a long tradition of speaking-out on ethical issues involving the economy. Many in the Fundamentalist tradition have eschewed issues of social justice on the grounds that it all comes down to a matter of individual ethics and here traditional Christian ethics should rule. Some Evangelicals are attempting to go a step further and explore the idea of a Christian economics. All are agreed that moral values are at the center of social problems and their solutions.

PART V: REFLECTIONS ON ETHICS, FAITH AND ECONOMIC THEORY

This section is not a proper conclusion. There probably is no such thing. Rather it seems fitting to end the course with a story and with a commentary on a real life issue.

Required Texts:


*Brenda Laurel, Peter Lunenfeld, Design Research: Methods and Perspectives, The MIT Press (October 1, 2003)

V. ACTIVITIES:

A range of adult advanced educational techniques, predominantly in-class experiential learning methods will be used in this course. They involve addressing course objectives in discussions involving everyone, short presentations, skill development practice exercises, and course projects. Handouts and reserved readings will be available to aid preparation and clarify processes for assignments. Throughout the course, participants will be required to join the professor in critical thinking and analysis, including identifying and challenging assumptions, describing how context affects analyses and outcomes, imaging and exploring a range of research alternatives, and using critical evaluative analysis. Every research issue will be explored from a minimum of two methodological approaches.

Evaluation Process
Course Grades, Assignments, and Requirements: NO TESTS

Grades - based on two criteria:

(1) production of a methodologically sound and technically accurate research proposal,

(2) 80% or better using the attached evaluation guideline at the end of this syllabus on all assignments, and requirements.

A. Class attendance,

Active participation. Real learning takes place through discussion, reinforcement, and realistic application. Active participation and contribution in each class meeting through participative discussion is required. Included in the attendance is ONE dissertation defense or dissertation defense formal proposal meeting. Must be completed during the semester.

B. Critical Analytic Research Reviews

Each participant will be expected to review three independent research projects, in part to sharpen your critical analysis skills and to provide you with the opportunity to think about the foundations of the research process.

Each critique will consist of a 3-5 page, double spaced electronic file with a three (3) inch left margin in any common MS Windows or Macintosh (or Word or WordPerfect) based word processing program. The area to the left will be used for comments/questions etc. By necessity the limitation of size will preclude long narratives describing the research, in order that you may maximize your ability to critique the research process. You should be concise but comprehensive insuring that you cover as a minimum: the purpose of the research, the research design selected, the adequacy of the design, suggestions for alternative approaches. Since no research design is perfect, you should be working to identify the flaws and to provide strategy to overcome methodological problems.

Each critique will be returned with questions that will need to be answered and then returned, so expect this process to facilitate a dialogue about research design between the participants and the professor.

C. Computer Literature Search

Each participant will select a topic of interest (your choice, but a dissertation related area might save you some time in the future). You will conduct or have conducted a database search of materials - recent research, articles, books, etc. for this topic. You will be asked to provide a bibliographic list of the search results.

D. Oral Presentation of a Draft Research Proposal

Each participant will present to their associates/colleagues within the class, an overview
of your planned research proposal. Class participants, including the professor, will ask questions of relevance to the methodological design and will provide suggestion based on the knowledge and skills developed throughout the doctoral program in research methods, and quantitative and qualitative analysis. A one page outline of the proposal should be prepared and distributed to each class member one week prior to presentation, for preparation. Class participants should come prepared with questions, concerns, issues for the evening of the oral presentation.

E. Final Written Research Proposal

Participants are expected to submit a final research proposal that may or may not be what will be used for your independent doctoral dissertation research. This proposal will constitute the plan that would/will be followed to conduct research within your area of expertise/discipline. Your proposal should follow a standard research proposal format and should include both an abstract and partial reference list.

VI. EVALUATION PROCESS

Examination

During the trimester two partial examinations will be given. Both will be worth 30% and will be comprised of essay, short answer, and problem questions. The final will be partially comprehensive in nature.

Research Paper

Write a research paper providing a detailed analysis of ethical and moral issues confronted by the managers and economists operating in today’s world. Your analysis should cover topics such as those discussed in this course. The length of the paper should not exceed more than 20 typed (double spaced) A-4 pages (about 4,000 words). Grade value of the paper: 40%

Guidelines for written work:

1. Complete sentences should always be used, even if a point form summary is being outlined. Spelling, grammar and other elements of expression will be considered in the assessment. A "chatty" or "journalistic" style should be avoided. The first person (I, we) should be avoided in favor of an impersonal style (the evidence suggests that...). Side headings should be used appropriately to highlight subject matter. ,

2. Appendices should be referred to, and numbered and sequenced in the same order. Pages should be numbered and the entire report securely stapled or bound. Duplicates of all material submitted should be made and retained by each group.

3. A reference list (alphabetical listing by author/first.author) must be attached to your report. References in the report should be cited by author and date of publication, e.g. (Smith, 1988).

4. A good English usage book is recommended for points of grammar. A good example is the
Your course grade will be a weighted according to the following:

First Exam 30%
Final Exam 30%
Research Paper 40%
Total 100%

Grades

The following maximum grading scale is guaranteed:

90-100% = A
80 - 89% = B
70 - 79% = C
Below 60% = F

Textbooks

There is no specific textbook for the class. The following are references on the subject used in this course. Most of them are available from our library.

VII. RESOURCES

Vary depending on the students' research interest. However, the following web pages are necessary to support the research topic:
Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA)
The Security Exchange Commission (SEC)
The Economic and Administrative Journal-Metro: ceajournal.metro.inter.edu
Web pages of special companies such as: IBM, EDS, Microsoft.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Vary depending on the research topic selected. The followings are suggested references related to the suggested topics:
Chenhall R. H. & Langfield-Smith (2003) "Performance Measurement and


Supplementary References


