Business Ethics

In-person Meetings:
    Mon: No meetings; Wed: 35 minutes; Fri: 50 minutes
<mark>Meetings will not be recorded nor live-streamed.</mark>

Overview

Contrary to popular belief, "profit maximization" is not the only thing that matters in business. Ethics also matter, and people are beginning to recognize this. Businesses involve other parties whose interests are at stake, e.g. employees, business collaborators, competitors, suppliers, local communities, and so on. Businesses nowadays cannot and should not ignore the interests of relevant stakeholders but should take them into consideration when making business decisions. This course encourages you to take a broader view of business. It aims to develop your ability to recognize and think about the interests of all relevant stakeholders, to solve business problems in light of their interests, and to make business decisions in ethically informed ways.

We will begin with a discussion of a few ethical theories and two theories of the nature of the firm. Knowledge of these theories will enable us to identify ethically relevant factors and make ethical evaluations/decisions when dealing with problems in business. We will then apply these theories to various topics such as deception in business, women in business, and treatment of employees.

We will also discuss plenty of case studies throughout the term and apply the theories that we have learnt to analyze and evaluate these cases. Most importantly, we will practice using these theories to take the interests of all relevant stakeholders into consideration when analyzing and making ethically informed decisions to solve the problems in these cases.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:
(1) explain the relevance of ethics to business in terms of the topics covered in this course;
(2) apply ethical theories to identify ethically relevant factors;
(3) make ethically informed business decisions by taking into account the interests of all relevant stakeholders.