

BUS/RLTH 354: THEOLOGY AND BUSINESS ETHICS

California Lutheran University
Swenson 118
Wednesday 6:00p – 9:30p

Winter 2017, November 21 – February 16
Prerequisite: None
4 Credits

INSTRUCTOR

Robert V. Doyle, PhD
Office Hours: Wednesday 4p – 5p (or by appointment)

Mobile: 310-254-7622
Email: rdoyle@callutheran.edu

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES

Monday, December 5th:	Last day to add Last day to drop (without a “W” or financial penalty)
Tuesday, January 17th:	Last day to Withdraw from a class
Thursday, February 16th:	Last date to remove Fall term incompletes

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course applies ethical theory to business decisions within the context of theological reflection. With a strategic focus, the course will investigate the relationship between theological ethics and the economic concerns of managers. The course is particularly designed to help participants become effective ethical agents by developing the skills to apply ethical principles to strategic business decisions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, participants should be able to:

- ✓ Articulate an understanding of theological principles and theories and the various methodologies used in approaches to business ethics.
- ✓ Analyze theological and ethical arguments on business and economic topics.
- ✓ Propose sound arguments related to theological issues in business and leadership.
- ✓ Critically reflect on theological issues related to specific religious traditions encountered in the provisions of business and economics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

TEXTS:

Alford, Helen J., and Michael Naughton. *Managing as If Faith Mattered: Christian Social Principles in the Modern Organization*. Notre Dame, IN: U of Notre Dame, 2001. ISBN 0268034621

Shaw, William H., and Vincent Barry. *Moral Issues in Business*. 13th ed.: Wadsworth Publishing, 2015. ISBN 1285874323

BLACKBOARD:

Other required readings will be available through the course’s **Blackboard** page. If you are having difficulty accessing **Blackboard** or utilizing any of its components please speak to the instructor immediately.

EMAIL:

All participants must have a valid email address that he/she checks regularly. This will be the primary method of communication outside of class. For assistance with Blackboard, email, or Web Advisor, please contact the help desk at (805) 493-3698 or helpdesk@callutheran.edu. For Blackboard tutorials, please go to the following link: <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm>.

CLASS FORMAT

This is a standard Professionals' course, which means that 13-14 hours of course time is delivered via online, instructor-led activities (such as: Discussion boards, wikis, pre-recorded lectures, etc.).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The instructor expects each participant to read thoroughly all the required materials and to participate actively in class discussions. The instructor also expects participants to express their own informed views on the topics discussed in each class session.

PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION:

Classes will begin promptly at the assigned time. Participants should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings and raise questions relevant to the content of the lecture. Participants are expected to engage in thoughtful, informed and respectful discussion on the issues of the lecture; lectures should be interactive. Participants must bring textbooks/assigned readings to every class session.

Each class session will typically involve small group activities. Activities will be based on the topic for the designated class session, including readings and lectures. Group activities will be graded and used to calculate individual *Preparation and Participation* grades. Group activities may not be made up in the case of absences.

Please note: The use of *computers* and *phones* in class is strictly prohibited. A violation of this policy will result in a participant being marked absent for that class session.

DISCUSSION BOARD RESPONSES:

Each participant must complete three (3) posts per week. These include: (a) A response post to the *Weekly Questions* discussion topic, (b) An original post, and (c) a response post to a peer. Each post should be about two hundred (200) words in length. The original post (beginning a new discussion thread) should be a critical analysis/response to (some aspect of) the week's reading, lecture, class discussion, experiences in the field, or current events (to name a few). The response post should respond to other discussion topics posted by other participants (contributing to an existing thread or threads).

Each participant should respond to the *Weekly Questions* discussion topic by Wednesday at 6:00p. A second, original post, should be completed by Friday at 11:59p and a third, response to another participant's discussion topic, is due by Sunday at 11:59p.

These are minimum requirements that all participants are expected to satisfy. However, you are permitted – and indeed encouraged – to post more than the required number of messages. Discussions should be interactive and mimic the energy and flow of an on-site class session. The instructor will facilitate all discussion boards and respond to posts and steer the discussion as necessary.

MID-TERM CASE-ANALYSIS:

Each participant will write a case-analysis for a mid-term evaluation. The analysis should be four to five (4 – 5) double-spaced, typed pages. The instructor will upload the case and additional instructions two weeks prior to the due date. *Mid-Term Case-Analysis* papers must be submitted under the **Case Analysis (→ Mid-Term Case Analysis)** tab on **Blackboard** by 11:59p on the due date. (Assignments sent via email **will not** be graded.)

FINAL CASE-ANALYSIS:

Each participant will write a case-analysis for a final assignment. The analysis should be five to six (5 – 6) double-spaced, typed pages. The instructor will upload the case and additional instructions two weeks prior to the due date. *Final Case-Analysis* papers should be submitted under the **Case Analysis (→ Final Case Analysis)** tab on **Blackboard** by 11:59p on the due date. (Assignments sent via email **will not** be graded.)

PARTICIPANT WORKLOAD FOR A 4-CREDIT COURSE (50-MINUTE HOUR)

The expectation is that a 4-credit course will meet for 50 hours of instructional time and will have 100 hours of out-of-class work (homework).

- As our 4-credit courses meet for about 36-37 hours in-person, the remaining 13-14 hours of instructional time need to be handled via online instructions (flipped classes, discussion boards, etc.).
- There should be approximately 9 hours of homework per week (of course this may vary depending on the week)

Activity	Instructor-Led Hours		Homework Hours		Remarks
	Weekly	Course	Weekly	Course	
Readings of Required Text			5	55	Over 11 weeks, uneven distribution
Weekly Classes	3 hr. 20 min.	36 hrs. 40 min.			Includes final exam
Discussion Board Responses	1 hr. 6 min.	12 hr.			Average, varies by participant
Mid-Term Prep (and Paper)		40 min.		17.5	Average, varies by participant
Final Exam Prep (and Paper)		40 min.		27.5	Average, varies by participant
Total		50		100	

**** IN THIS CHART THE CARNEGIE INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONVERTED TO TRADITIONAL CLOCK HOURS; THESE ARE BASED ON A 60-MINUTE CLOCK HOUR.**

GRADING PROCEDURES

The instructor will determine the participant's final grade by the following:

Preparation and Participation	20%	Mid-Term Case Analysis	25%
Discussion Board Responses	25%	Final Case Analysis	30%

Individual letter grades will be calculated on the following basis:

| A | 100 - 95 | A- | 94 - 90 | B+ | 89 - 85 | B | 84 - 82 | B- | 81-80 | C+ | 79 - 77

Please Note:

- ✓ Participants must complete all components of the course in order to receive a passing grade.
- ✓ A grade of "I" will only be considered in extremely rare circumstances after a participant has completed a majority of coursework with an average grade of "C" or better.

POLICY ON CLASS ATTENDANCE

The course thrives on the relationships between the professor and the participants. Therefore, participants' involvement is essential in meeting the goals of the course. This involves regular attendance to class. As such, attendance to each class session is **mandatory**.

Participants may be allowed one excused absence. Requests should be submitted formally to the professor. Please note that more than two absences will result in: (1) a deduction of one letter grade from a participant's final grade (B → C), or (2) a request to withdraw from the course.

Attendance will be taken promptly at the designated start time. Late arrivals will be considered as an absence.

- ✓ No make-up assignments or late assignments will be accepted.

- ✓ Should difficult circumstances arise, please contact the professor prior to class or a due date.

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ACADEMIC HONESTY

The educational programs of California Lutheran University are designed and dedicated to achieve academic excellence, honesty and integrity at every level of student life. Part of CLU's dedication to academic excellence is our commitment to academic honesty. Students, faculty, staff and administration share the responsibility for maintaining high levels of scholarship on campus. Any behavior or act which might be defined as "deceitful" or "dishonest" will meet with appropriate disciplinary sanctions, including dismissal from the University, suspension, grade F in a course or various forms of academic probation. Policies and procedures regarding academic honesty are contained in the faculty and student handbooks.

All participants are responsible for behaving in an ethical manner both in all communications and contact with the instructor, other staff members, and other participants. Academic dishonesty is failure to apply this ethic.

Academic honesty means the following:

- Documenting all proprietary information that is received from outside sources, including books, articles, web sites, lectures, interviews, television, radio, etc.
- Putting quotation marks around the words that were written or spoken by someone other than oneself.
- Applying this standard to all assignments

PLAGIARISM:

To present someone else's work or ideas as one's own is plagiarism. A participant commits plagiarism by:

- Copying, word for word, someone else's writing without putting that passage in quotation marks and identifying the source;
- Taking someone else's writing, changing some of the words, and not identifying the source;
- Taking someone else's ideas or organization of ideas, putting them into his/her own words and not identifying the source;
- Having someone else change the participant's writing--a tutor, friend, or relative, for instance--and creating the impression that this is the participant's own work;
- Or purchasing or downloading papers or passages from an online source.

A participant found guilty of plagiarism may receive an F for the plagiarized assignment or be dismissed from the course with a grade of F.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

California Lutheran University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations in compliance with ADA of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to students with documented disabilities. If you are a student requesting accommodations for this course, please contact your professor at the beginning of the semester and register with the Disability Support Services Coordinator, Wendy Jimenez, for the facilitation and verification of need. The Disability Support Services Coordinator is located in the Center for Student Success Office at 3259 Pioneer Street, and can be contacted by calling 805.493.3878 or emailing wjimene@callutheran.edu

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT STATEMENTS

[Student Life Handbook](#)

[Academic Honesty Statement](#)

UNIVERSITY HARASSMENT POLICY

Be civil to each other, both on- and offline. For information on the University's **student harassment policy and rights, please go to the following link:** [Student Life Handbook](#)

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

California Lutheran University does not tolerate any degree of sexual misconduct on or off-campus. We encourage you to report if you know of, or have been the victim of, sexual harassment, misconduct, and/or assault. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify Cal Lutheran's Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. More information about your options for reporting can be found at: <http://www.callutheran.edu/title-ix/>

PEARSON LIBRARY

Pearson Library provides access to scholarly books, journals, ebooks, and databases of full text articles from scholarly journals. To begin using these materials, visit the library web page <http://www.callutheran.edu/library>

There are many ways to contact Pearson Library for research assistance, no matter where you are!

- Email Yvonne Wilber (Professionals liaison) at ywilber@callutheran.edu
- General Library email: CLUlibrary@callutheran.edu
- Library main phone: 805.493.3250
- Text us your question: 805.493.3867

- Get more help at: <http://www.callutheran.edu/library/help/>

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CLU WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center provides 1:1 writing consultations, in-person and online, with trained undergraduate and graduate writing consultants. We welcome all writing-related projects at any stage of the writing process across the diverse disciplines of study at CLU. The Writing Center also hosts writing workshops, provides in-class visits, facilitates writing groups, and offers a writer's studio option for longer, sustained projects. Services suit writers of all levels, including traditional undergraduates, graduate students from all fields, all English language learners, and accomplished scholars alike. All members of the CLU community with an @callutheran.edu email address are welcome to make use of our services. For more information, please visit at www.callutheran.edu/writing_center or call 805-493-3257. Please schedule appointments online through MyCLU Blackboard with the yellow "The Writing Center" icon in "Tools," or stop by The Writing Center itself, located in the Darling Collaboration Suite of Pearson Library.

VETERANS RESOURCES

If you are a veteran, military member, or a family member of a veteran or military member, please refer to Cal Lutheran's Veterans Resources webpage for important information: <http://www.callutheran.edu/veterans/> Also, if you are a veteran receiving benefits and you are struggling in a class, you most likely qualify for free tutoring. Please contact the Veterans Coordinator, Jenn Zimmerman, veterans@callutheran.edu or 805.493.3648, for more information.

HELP DESK

Participants may contact the Help Desk about telephone, network, wireless network, software questions password problems, hardware problems, and general consultation (i.e. you cannot log into your MyCLU portal, or you are having problems with Blackboard). Please click on the following link for more information http://www.callutheran.edu/iss/technology_services/helpdesk.php or call: 805.493.3698

COURSE EVALUATIONS STATEMENT

All course evaluations are conducted online. Your feedback is important to us. You will receive an email message reminding you when the website is open for your feedback. The link is: <http://courseval.callutheran.edu>

IMPORTANT COURSE DATES

Wednesday, November 23 rd :	Class Begins
Wednesday, December 14 th :	Mid-Term Case Analysis <i>Available</i>
Wednesday, January 4 th :	Mid-Term Case Analysis <u>Due</u>
Wednesday, February 1 st :	Final Case Analysis <i>Available</i>
Wednesday, February 15 th :	Final Case Analysis <u>Due</u>

Please note:

The syllabus is subject to change. Every effort will be made to alert participants to changes that occur in a timely manner.

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
1	November 23 rd	Course Introduction (Online Session: Lecture & Assignment will be posted on Blackboard)	
2	November 30 th	The Nature of Morality	Shaw: pages 1 - 53
3	December 7 th	Theories of Ethics	Shaw: pages 54 - 104
4	December 14 th	Business, the Common Good, and Virtue	Alford: pages 38 - 98
	December 21 st	No Class: Winter Break	
	December 28 th		
5	January 4 th	Justice and Economic Distribution	Shaw: pages 104 - 148 Alford: pages 125 - 151
Wednesday, January 4th: Mid-Term Case Analysis due by 11:59p			
6	January 11 th	Corporations	Shaw: pages 199 - 259 Alford: pages 152 - 176
7	January 18 th	Consumers	Shaw: pages 260 - 319
8	January 25 th	Solidarity and Responsibility in Marketing	Alford: pages 177 - 206
9	February 1 st	Moral Issues in the Workplace	Shaw: pages 373 - 426
10	February 8 th	Moral Challenges in the Workplace	Shaw: pages 427 - 484
11	February 15 th	Moral Choices and Spirituality in the Workplace	Shaw: pages 485 - 509; 549 - 567 Alford: pages 207 - 228
Wednesday, February 15th: Final Case-Analysis due by 11:59p			