GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 11/30/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 12/14/2021

BUSINESS 197 – PERSONAL ETHICS AT WORK

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

BUS 197 Personal Ethics at Work 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

This course examines the ethical foundation for choices individuals make every day both in the workplace and in their private lives, the connection between economic and ethical obligations with examples related to privacy, reporting, whistle-blowing, workplace relationships, confidentiality, and intellectual property.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Develop a useful and practical definition of ethics.

b. Assess the ethical issues facing employees, management and entrepreneurs.

c. Apply the ethics to real-world situations.

d. Critique corporate ethics programs and how the code of conduct and ethics fits into these programs.

e. Become familiar with techniques and approaches for evaluating the ethical performance of a company.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

a. Introduction to Ethics: Why Are Ethics Important?

b. Introduction to Giving Voice to Values   
 c. Ends vs. Means Discussion

d. Corporate Structure and Ethics Programs

e. Fun with the Fudge Factor

f. Blinded by Our Own Motivations

g. Why We Blow It When We’re Tired

h. Real World Evaluation of Company Ethical Performance

i. Cheating as an Infection: How We Catch the Dishonesty Germ

j. Collaborative Cheating

k. Ethics of Advertising

l. Ethics of Corporate Philanthropy

m. Ethics of a Family Business

n. Ethics of International Business

o. Whistleblowing

p. Employee Discipline and Ethics

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture

b. Group discussion

c. Problem solving scenarios

d. Case studies

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Homework, written or online.
2. Corporate Ethics Project – Evaluate ethical performance of a company.
3. Quizzes.
4. Possible take-home tests or online assessments.
5. Comprehensive in-class final exam.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Assigned textbook material.
2. Read online news sites to present current examples of ethical challenges in business.
3. Compile examples of ethical challenges as presented in online news sources.
4. Assigned Corporate Ethics Project.

11. Representative Texts

1. Representative text(s):
2. Ariely, Dan, *The (Honest) Truth About Dishonesty*, New York, NY, Harper Perennial (2013)
3. Treviño, Linda, and Katherine A. Nelson, *Managing Business Ethics: Straight Talk About How to Do It Right*, New York, NY, Wiley, (Fifth Edition) (2021)
4. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

a. Explain the various ethical dimensions of business decision making.

b. Explain the role of various affected parties in business decision making.

c. Assess the ethics of decision alternatives using different ethical decision rules.

d. Apply ethical decision-making rules and concepts.