



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

8,922: Business Ethics in Turbulent Times

ECTS credits: 5

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8.922.1.00 Business Ethics in Turbulent Times \(CEMS Exclusive Course\)](#) -- Englisch -- [Wettstein Florian](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None

Learning objectives

The goal of this course is to develop a sound normative standpoint from which to assess the moral purpose and legitimacy not only of economic systems and organizations as well as of our own role and activity within and through them.

The specific course objectives include:

- Fostering awareness and sensitivity for the moral dimensions of (doing) business and developing reflective competence in order to recognize, understand, and discuss systematically the ethical dimensions of situations and decisions with which professionals are faced in business.
- Building the competence to navigate normative discourses surrounding the role and responsibility of business and managers in society.
- Developing a professional ethos, which is based on integrity and on the principled commitment to moral and professional responsibility.
- Understanding and navigating the particular challenges of ethics, corporate and professional responsibility in the international context.

Course content

This course takes an international perspective on business ethics and blends a general introduction to the subject with a more specific focus on some of the particular challenges and issues as they have emerged in the global arena particularly in the past few years. In a time of global turmoil, with right-wing populist movements on the rise and democracy under threat, with growing inequality and human rights under pressure, and with global corporations rivalling states in size and power, we will reflect on what this all means for the field of business ethics. What new issues and problems of ethical relevance have emerged in recent years and are emerging at the horizon? And what does business ethics as a field have to offer in tackling and solving them?

In this course, conceptual reflections on the foundations of business ethics will be complemented with the discussion of more specific issues and problem areas, ranging from human rights responsibilities of business to new regulatory approaches in the global economy to very concrete questions relating to corruption, digitalization, or ethical finance. The course balances reflections on the ethics of individual conduct within organizations and the market (micro perspective) with such on the institutional ethics of the market economy itself (macro perspective). Special emphasis will be given to the ethical analysis of corporate actors, that is, to questions of corporate responsibility (meso perspective).



Students' learning will take place in an interactive course format, which combines the discussion of case studies and specific management dilemmas as well as structured debates on controversial topics with complementary lecture parts and project presentations by students.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

I Introduction to Business Ethics and Ethical Decision-Making

II Business Ethics and Corporate Responsibility

III International Business Ethics and Corporate Responsibility

IV Business and Human Rights

V Business Ethics in Turbulent Times: Issues and Cases

Course literature

An electronic course packet will be provided.

Additional course information

Florian Wettstein is chair and professor of business ethics and director of the Institute for Business Ethics at University of St. Gallen. He is the author of *Multinational Corporations and Global Justice: Human Rights Obligations of a Quasi-Governmental Institution* (Stanford University Press, 2009) and *Business and Human Rights: Ethical, Legal, and Managerial Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press, 2022). Also, he is Editor-in-Chief of the *Business and Human Rights Journal (BHRJ)*, published by Cambridge University Press.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Cases and issues in corporate responsibility and international business ethics

Examination relevant literature

Participants are expected to gain an adequate understanding and overview of the relevant literature on their assigned research question.

Advice and support in regard to relevant literature for the respective topics will be given by the instructors upon participants' requests.



Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 26 January 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 10 April 2023).