Professor Alan Strudler
663 JMHH
x 81221
Office Hours:

**Course description:** This course asks the question: what is the morally right thing to do in business? Other courses at Penn explore the causes of wrongdoing and the institutions that regulate conduct in business; we, too, will consider these topics, but as background.

Among substantive topics we consider: normative moral theory; skepticism about morality in business; tactics in negotiation; VW and other recent business scandals; sweatshops and outsourcing; corporate responsibility to people other than shareholders; workplace ethics; autonomous cars, climate change. Readings will be available electronically.

**Requirements:**

1. Discussion/Participation (may improve your grade)
2. Midterm (35%)
3. Final take-home exam (65%)

**Discussion/Participation:** Consistent attendance is required. You will be permitted three absences. Any other absences will be excused for documented medical reasons or family emergencies. I am willing to consider other extenuating circumstances. All absences should be reported through the official Course Absence Report on PennInTouch. If you miss more than three classes, we will need to meet to discuss your attendance. Excessive absences may result in a failing or very low grade for the course.

Satisfactory participation requires more than attendance. Our classes will typically consist in reconstructing the arguments of the assigned readings, and then critically discussing them. Students should always try to make constructive contributions. Come prepared.

**Midterm:** A combination of multiple choice and short answers

**Take home exam:** Approximately 5 page paper on a topic to be assigned.
CLASSROOM POLICIES:

*Electronics*: Laptops and tablets are not permitted (without documented need). Please shut off your cellphones through the duration of each class.

*Lateness*: Be timely.

*Food*: Eat freely!

*Readings*: All readings will be available electronically.

**SCHEDULE** (subject to change):

1-15 **Introduction**
What to do with money (no reading)

1-27 **Egoism**
Feldman, Egoism

1-29 **Exercise**

2-3 **Honesty**
Strudler, Deception unraveled

2-5 **Corporate Social Responsibility**
Merck & Co., Inc
Friedman, The social responsibility of business is to increase profits

2-10 **Corporate Social Responsibility**
Freeman, Stakeholder theory of the modern corporation
Stout, The problem of corporate purpose

2-12 **Corporate Social Responsibility**
Strudler, What to do with corporate wealth
ALI, Principles of corporate governance

2-17 **Corporate Action**
Ewing, Inside VW’s campaign of trickery
Arnold, Corporate moral agency
Sepinwall, Blame, Emotion, and the Corporation
2-19 Corporate Tyranny
Anderson, Liberty, equality, and private government
Ihara, Are individual rights necessary? A Confucian perspective

2-24 Catch-up and Review

2-26 Midterm

3-2 Exercise

3-4 Debrief

3-16 Moral Reasoning
Sandhu, Dicing with Death
Feldman, Utilitarianism Material

3-18 Moral Reasoning
Feldman, Kant material

3-23 Technological challenges
Lin, Why ethics matters for autonomous cars

3-25 International Business Ethics
Thompson, Google’s China problem
Donaldson, Moral minimums for multinationals

3-30 How much should we do?
Singer, Famine, affluence, and morality

4-1 Moral Relativism and Disagreement
Feldman, Relativism
Boghossian, The maze of moral relativism
Prinz, Morality is a culturally conditioned response

4-6 Moral Relativism and Disagreement
Appiah, Moral Disagreement

4-13 Exploitation
Case, Rana Plaza: Workplace safety in Bangladesh
Zwolinski, Sweatshops, choice, and exploitation

4-15 International biopiracy
Shiva, Biopiracy
Chen, There’s no such thing as biopiracy…and it’s a good thing too
4-20 **Distributive Justice**
Rawls, Distributive justice

4-22 **Distributive Justice**
Nozick, Distributive justice

4-27 **Business and the meaning of life**
Wolf, Moral saints
Macaskill, Replaceability and career choice

4-29 **Review**