MODULE SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Module name	Ethical Decision-Making in Business
Module code	BM3209
School	Cass Business School
Department or equivalent	Undergraduate Programme
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	6
Pre-requisites	*NA*

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

You will learn how to make difficult ethical decisions in business.

The module aims to:

1. Give you an understanding of the major ethical theories we can use to make decisions
2. Provide you with experience of applying these frameworks to make difficult business decisions
3. Enable you to explore your own ethical values and how they apply in your own decision making

Content outline

To module gives you a strong foundation in tackling tough ethical decisions. It also gives you an opportunity to reflect on your own ethics and values. To do this, we cover the following topics:

1. Ethical dilemmas in business: What are they and how to approach them?
2. Virtue Ethics: Is happiness the goal of life?
3. Kantian Ethics: Are there universal moral rules?
4. Utilitarian Ethics: Should we focus on the greatest good for the greatest number?
5. Rawlsian Ethics: How can create a more just society?
6. Libertarian Ethics: Is freedom the most important value?
7. Communitarian Ethics: Should loyalty come first?
8. Feminist Ethics: What role does care play in our lives?
9. Deliberative Ethics: Why should we value democracy and diversity?

To enhance your learning experience modules are designed to reflect contemporary issues in the business and financial world. As such, a degree of flexibility is expected in the exact content in terms of scope and coverage to ensure relevance to current circumstances.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Explain key theories and approaches to ethics
- Evaluate, symthesise and critique key theories of ethics

Skills:

- Identify ethical dilemmas in a business context
- Apply key theories of ethics to make better ethical decisions in a business context
- Address conflicting ethical values in a business context

Values and attitudes:

- Appreciate different ethical values
- Tackle ethical dilemmas in a systematic and rational way
- Demonstrate a deeper awareness of one's own ethical values
- Demonstrate an appreciation of ethical issues as they relate to both the subject matter and the wider business world.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A variety of learning and teaching methods will be used in this course.

Lectures are used to introduce context, concepts and techniques illustrated with practical and current examples. You will also have the opportunity to participate in class discussions and work through examples and exercises with the support of the lecturer. It is strongly recommended that you attend ALL lectures.

Tutorials are used to explore the concepts and practices covered in the lectures in more detail. Specifically, they are used primarily to demonstrate technical material, although some discussion and analysis will accompany the practical techniques. Tutorials take place in smaller groups and you are expected to interact with the tutor and other students. You must attend all tutorials. You will be assessed on tutorial participation and discussion leadership.

Key learning and teaching resources will be put on the module website on Moodle.

Self-directed learning hours are for independent study and account for the minimum amount of time you should spend studying independently. For example, carrying out subject research, practicing and reflecting on techniques learned in class, reading widely around the subject to develop a deeper understanding, carrying out activities using the VLE, attending induction and career development workshops, working in groups to complete assignments and presentations, and completing individual assignments and other homework.

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lecture	Lecture	20	80		100
Tutorial	Tutorial	10	40		50
Totals:		30	120		150

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

This module is assessed by Coursework and Examination.

Course work. Ethical intervention in the form of a newspaper opinion piece, report, podcast, video or other appropriate format. Equivalent to 2000 words or 5 minutes running time.

At the end of the module you will sit one final 135 minute exam during the University exam period.

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Course work	Project output (other than dissertation)	40%	0	N/A
Tutorial participation and leadership	Practical skill assessment	20%		
Exam	Written exam	40%	0	N/A

Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria

are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to you prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available in the UG Assessment Handbook and from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given your marks and feedback in line with the University's Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Sandel, M. (2010) Justice: What's the right thing to do? London: Penguin
Haidt, J. (2012) The Righteous Mind. London: Vintage.
Crane, A. and Matten, D. (2015) Business Ethics, 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Journal of Business Ethics
Business Ethics Quarterly

Version: 1.0
Version date: February 2020
For use from: 2020-21

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Appendix:

Please complete the following table which is required for correct set up on SITS, and for external reporting. Further information is available on HESA Cost Centres (here) and HECoS Codes (here). Guidance is also available in the Quality Manual.

CODES

HESA Cost Centre	Description	Price Group
133	Business & management studies	D

HECoS Code	Description	Percentage (%)
100089	The study of managing organisations.	100