Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

BUSINESS ETHICS

GRADO EN ECONOMÍA (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

Date: 09-07-2024

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
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I.-Subject Identification	
Type	FORMACIÓN BÁSICA
Teaching period	2 course, 2Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

The main objective of this subject is to introduce students to the study of ethics in general and business ethics in particular, which is considered as an applied ethics. Business ethics encompasses the people who work in an organisation, the organisational structure itself, the external environment in which it operates, the external environment in which they work (legal, social, administrative, etc.) and society in general. It is therefore a question of analysing the bases and factors on which business ethics and the company's ethics, with which it is closely related, are based.

As Karl Popper pointed out, "institutions do not act; people act in and through institutions". Hence, the ultimate aim of the subject is not only to transmit concepts, definitions, duties, and obligations, but also to form the ethical and social conscience of future professionals in economics. Without renouncing to professional efficiency and business competitiveness, they should be able to achieve a more humane economic and business world, more attentive to the concerns of those involved in business, a healthier environment and, in short, a more responsible and fairer society. For these reasons, the subject takes on special importance in the degree and in the training of future economists and managers of the economy.

No prerequisites are required, although a certain critical capacity and an interest in reading and writing are recommended.

- Deliberate plagiarism of already published articles or papers by the student will result in immediate failure of the course.
- Students will receive clear instructions on how the course is to be conducted and what is required. Following these guidelines is part of the continuous assessment process.
- Indiscriminate copying from internet resources, such as Wikipedia, is not permitted under any circumstances in essays, reports, or assignments. If this is detected, the student will not pass.
- Spelling mistakes in students' writing in the evaluations will be penalized.

III.-Competences

Generic competences

CT02. Ability to organise and plan
CT13. Commitment to values in the workplace
CT18. Leadership
CB01 .That students have demonstrated the possession and comprehension of knowledge in a field of study based on the foundations of general secondary education, at a level that, although supported by advanced textbooks, includes some aspects that imply knowledge proceeding from the forefront of the field of study.
CB02 . That students are able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have the skills that are typically demonstrated through the preparation and defense of arguments and problem solving within their field of study.
CB03 . That students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) to express judgments that include a reflection on relevant topics related to social, scientific or ethical areas.
CB04 . That students are able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialized and non-specialized audience.

Specific competences

CE13. Understanding how companies work and decisions are made
CE14. Ability to convert an empirical problem into an area of research and reach conclusions

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IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

I.INTRODUCTION TO RESPONSIBILITY

Topic 1. Training as responsibility. Learning objectives. Getting out of the comfort zone. Success and work. Learning to undertake.

Topic 2. Three qualities to develop: change, creativity, and leadership. What is change? Change and management. The creative process. What characterizes a leader and what is he/she good for. Leadership skills. The paradoxical success of the mediocre. When the illusion of Prometheus becomes the repeated realization of Sisyphus. The tragedy of Euripides: the deceitfulness of life. Hercules: "the noblest of men".

Topic 3. Vocation as an element of responsibility. What do we understand by vocation and our own interests?

Topic 4. Intelligence as a responsible concept. What is intelligence? Intelligence and responsibility.

Topic 5. Sticking to reasons and the "ethical discrepancy". Sticking to reasons: what does it mean to provide reasoning? Do we know how to argue? Are all opinions equally respectable?

Topic 6. Discourse as an element of responsibility. Diogenes as a model. The confusion of language and "political correctness".

II. ETHICS

Topic 7. What do we understand by ethics? A demand, fashion or business? The field of ethics. Is it possible to reach valid conclusions in ethics? Ethics, what ethics?

Topic 8. What is ethics for? The need for ethics. Ethical models. Why do good and not evil? Objectives and criteria of ethics. Phenomenology of the ethical decision. Different ethical models.

Topic 9. Ethics and Legality. Legality and legitimacy. When the legal is not good and the illegal is not bad.

III.- THE COMPANY

Topic 10. Characteristics of a company. What is a company? The purpose of the company. Sustainable development and sustainable companies. Responsibility in the company.

Topic 11. The business organization. Employees. Managers. Capital.

Topic 12. Ethics or Business. Ethical principles in business. Ethics in business and in the company. Fight against corruption.

IV. ETHICS IN BUSINESS

Topic 13. The business system. The market: free or intervened markets. Governments. The international sphere.

Topic 14. Business environment. Environment and sustainability. Consumers.

Topic 15. Corporate Social Responsibility. Concepts and definition of CSR. What is it for? Key word: responsibility. Integration of CSR in the company.

Topic 16. Initiatives to promote CSR. The Global Compact. Global Reporting Initiative. ILO Declaration. OECD Guidelines for multinationals. The European Commission's Green Paper. Forum of experts.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Topic 17. Is ethics in business possible? Final analysis of the most important issues.

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Others	Participation in classroom discussions regarding ethical dilemmas or any topic related to the contents.
Reading	Book chapters/book and articles as determined at the beginning of the course.
Practical / resolution of exercises	Case study related to present ethical debates

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V.-Student worload	
Lecture classes	38
Pratical classes/resolution of exercises, case studies, etc.	16
Practical sessions in technological laboratories, hospitals, etc.	0
Tests	6
Academic tutorials	30
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	18
Preparation of lecture classes	40
Preparation of practices, exercises, cases studies work	20
Test preparation	12
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Master classes	Week 1 to Week 15	MD1: Theoretical explanations MD2: Practical explanations. The classes will have a theoretical-practical approach in order to encourage student participation. The lecturer will explain the main contents of each topic, present practical activities, answer questions raised, give indications on how to find additional information and promote open, critical and constructive debate.
Week 1 to Week 15	MD5: Readings: Documents, articles, news, audiovisual support content and other resources to work on the contents of each subject will be provided. Student participation through the resolution of questions and doubts in the classroom, as well as their contribution to the the forums of the different subjects. Also, presentations to the rest of the students can be considered.	Week 1 to Week 15
MD6: Use of audiovisual tools. MD7: Teamwork. MD8: Individual work. Presentation of case studies in the classroom.	Academic Tutorials	Week 1 to Week 18

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VII.-Assessment methods

VII.A.-Assessment weighting

Continuous ordinary assessment:
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment tests are those described below. Only in exceptional case and for special reasons may the teacher add changes to the Guide. These changes will require the prior consultation with the Subject Head and the prior and explicit authorisation of the Degree Programme Coordinator, who will notify the Vice-Rector?s office in charge of Academic Affairs of the modifications made. In any case, the changes proposed must take into account the stipulations of the verified report. In order for these changes to take effect, they must be duly communicated at the start of the course to the students using Aula Virtual.
The combination of activities that are not re-assessable cannot exceed 50% of the subject grade and, in general, cannot have a minimum grade (except for the case of laboratory or clinical work placements, where duly justified), and tests which exceed 60% of the subject weighting cannot be added.
Extraordinary assessment: Students who do not manage to pass the ordinary assessment, or who did not attend, will be subject to completion of an extraordinary assessment to verify their acquisition of the skills established in the guide, only for activities that are re-assessable.

Description of the tests for assessment and their weights.

The evaluation system of degrees in the EEES framework is continuous assessment.
ORDINARY EVALUATION
Evaluation system:
•Written critical commentary based on the readings proposed and participation in classroom activities (20%). No minimum grade required. Non reassesable in the extraordinary evaluation.
•Classroom presentation of the proposed topics using audiovisual format (20%). No minimum grade required. Non reassesable in the extraordinary evaluation..
•Final written test (60%). Reassesable. Minimum mark required: 5.
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EXTRAORDINARY EVALUATION
Evaluation system:
Final written test. Minimum mark required: 5. Contents include all the topics studied in the subject as well as all the readings indicated in each topic.

VII.B. Assessment of students with an academic exemption

Student who wish to opt for this assessment will have to get an academic exemption for the subject, which they will have to request from the Dean or Director of the Centre which teaches their course. An academic exemption may be granted where the subjects own characteristics allow for it.

Subject with the possibility of an exemption: Yes

VII.C. Review of assessment tests

In accordance with the exam appeal regulations of the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

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Curricular adaptations for students with a disability or special educational needs will be determined by the Disabled Students Support Department, in accordance with the regulations governing the Disabled Students Support service, approved by the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos Council, in order to guarantee equal opportunities, inclusive treatment, universal accessibility and a greater guarantee of academic success.

For this purpose, this Department will have to issue a curricular adaptation report, therefore students with disabilities or special educational needs must contact the Department to analyse the different alternatives together.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

The Universidad Rey Juan Carlos is completely committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Therefore, studying at the URJC means you accept and agree to the academic integrity and honesty values described in the University's Code of Ethics. In order to monitor this procedure, the University has Regulations on academic behaviour at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos and uses different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision?) which provides a collective assurance that these essential values are completely developed

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VII.-Bibliography
Reference Generic
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Reference literature
Bowie, N. E. & Schneider, Meg (2011). *Business Ethics for Dummies.* J. Wiley & Sons Ltd. Brenkert, Geroge G. & Beachamp, Tom L. (eds.), (2009). *The Oxford Handbook of Business Ethics.* Oxford University Press. Felber, C. (2015), *Change everything! Creating an economy for the common good.* Zedbooks. Frederick, Robert E. (ed.), (1999). *A Companion to Business Ethics.* Blackwell Publishers. Moon, Jeremy (2014). *Corporate Social Responsability: A Very Short Introduction.* OUP. Sandel, M. J. (2012). *What money can't buy: The moral limits of markets*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Sandel, M. (2021). *The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good?* Penguin. **Journals:** *Journal of Business Ethics* *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management* *Professional Ethics* *Organization and Environment* *Business Ethics Quarterly* **Different updated materials -articles, news, studies- (via classroom or aula virtual) will be provided.**

IX.-Lecturers/Teachers/Professors	
Lecturer/teacher/professor´s name	EVA PALOMO CERMEÑO
E-mail address	eva.palomo@urjc.es
Department/field	Estudios Históricos y Sociales, Lengua Española, Literatura, Filosofía Moral y Didácticas Específicas.
Category	Profesor/a Contratado/a Doctor/a
Academic qualifications	Doctor
Subject Coordinator	Yes
Academic tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Nº of Quinquenios	1
Nº of Sexenio	1
Nº period for technology transfer	0
Stretch Docentia	2

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