TO ACCOMPANY PROPOSAL FOR ADDITION OF COURSE TO AN EXISTING UNST CLUSTER

Name of proposing faculty member: Peter Nichols
Title of proposed course: Business Ethics
From which department(s): Philosophy
For which cluster: Freedom, Privacy, Technology
Name of cluster coordinator: Janie Ross

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COURSE APPROVED FOR CLUSTER INCLUSION BY

DEPARTMENT CHAIR(S): Date: 2/24/00

CLUSTER COORDINATOR: Date: 2/18/00

CHAIR, CLUSTER COORDINATORS: Date: 3/26/00

CHAIR, UNST COMMITTEE: Date: 4/18/00

Copies of completed document are to be filed with appropriate cluster coordinator(s) as well as sent to appropriate department chair(s), UNST Scheduling, and Chair, Cluster Coordinators.

University Studies: March, 1999
Proposal for Junior-Senior Cluster Course

Title of proposed course: Phil 209 Business Ethics

When will this course be offered? Spring term every year

Title of cluster: Freedom, Privacy & Technology

Name of cluster coordinator: Jamie P. Ross

A. Course Description (100 words or less)
Ethics is the study of attempts by philosophers to account for the differences between right and wrong, how we should live our lives and the nature of moral obligation. Since the social and political power of business affects individuals and social groups, ethics should be studies as a part of the public realm of business as well as in our personal lives. This course will deal with ethical theories as they apply to individuals and businesses. It will cover general ethical questions such as, “Is ethical relativism true?”

B. Course Development:
This is an existing course. This is a course that has already been accepted into another cluster.

C. General Education Goals:

I. Critical Thinking: Among the aims of the course is for the student to develop the ability to analyze ethical situations and to make reasoned judgement about them.

II. Communication: There are six quizzes during the term. There are also regular lists of study questions. Lectures include material beyond the reading to expose students to a broad range of interpretations.

III. Human Experience: Students develop an ability to analyze actual business ethics cases in light of traditional and contemporary ethical theories. They are required to extend theories to human practice.

IV. Social Responsibility: Students are asked to ponder the extent to which “businesses” are to be considered ethical entities in much the same way the Supreme Court took on the decision as to whether corporations were to be considered as individuals for legal purposes.

D. Course Outline

Peter Nichols teaches the course. See attached syllabus.
TEXT: MORAL ISSUES IN BUSINESS

SYLLABUS

In this course we will make a critical study of certain ethical questions related to business. The course will cover general ethical questions such as, "Is ethical relativism true?", and it will also focus on moral issues that arise in business. Among the aims of the course is for the student to develop the ability to analyze ethical situations and to make reasoned judgment about them.

The course will be conducted in this manner. The students will read material on the issues. We will then discuss this in class. There will be additional material presented in lectures that is not included in the readings. For these reasons, attendance will be important. If you can't come regularly to class, then you won't get much out of the class, nor will you be able to do well on the tests.

There will be six quizzes during the term. There is no final. There will also be a regular list of study questions. These will be ungraded, but they must be completed in order to receive a grade.

There may also be other assignments.

Academic honesty is a requirement for a grade.
SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

SEPT 29

OCT 1
READ: SEN -- DOES BUSINESS ETHICS MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE?

BOWIE -- RELATIVISM, CULTURAL AND MORAL

JACKALL -- CHAPTER ONE

WEEK TWO

OCT 6-10
READ: CARR -- BUSINESS BLUFFING

KELLY -- ITALIAN TAX

DONALDSON AND VERHAGE -- INTRODUCTION TO ETHICAL REASONING

JACKALL -- CHAPTER TWO

QUIZ 1: OCT 10

WEEK THREE

OCT 13-17
READ: VANDIVIER -- THE AIRCRAFT BRAKE SCANDAL

BOK -- WHISTLEBLOWING AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

JACKALL -- CHAPTER THREE

WEEK FOUR

OCT 20-24
QUIZ 2: OCT 22

READ: THE SECTION TRADITIONAL THEORIES OF PROPERTY AND PROFIT

WEEK FIVE

OCT 27-31
FRIEDMAN: THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF BUSINESS

MERCK AND CO.
WEEK SIX

NOV 3-7     QUIZ 3: NOV 3

READ: CIULLA: THE OIL RIG
RAWLS DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE
NOZICK: THE ENTITLEMENT THEORY
JACKALL: CHAPTER FOUR

WEEK SEVEN

NOV 10-14    QUIZ 4: NOV 14

READ: JACKALL: CHAPTER FIVE
ENVIRONMENT

WEEK EIGHT

NOV 17-21    READ: JACKALL: CHAPTER SIX
MARKETING

WEEK NINE

NOV 24-28    QUIZ 5: NOV 26

READ: JACKALL: CHAPTER SEVEN

WEEK TEN

DEC 1-5      READ: JACKALL: CHAPTER EIGHT

QUIZ 6: DEC 9