Proposal for a Junior-Senior Cluster Course

Title of proposed course: Phl 209 Business Ethics.

When will this course be offered?: At least one term beginning 1996-1997

Title of cluster: Morality

Name of cluster proposal coordinator: Byron L. Haines

A. Course Description (100 words or less). This course deals with various ethical issues that arise in business, such as truth telling, whistle blowing and corporate responsibility. The course studies various ethical theories as well as case histories in an attempt to better understanding what is ethical behavior in business.

B. Course Development. This course is based on an existing course and will not need to be revised.

C. General Education Goals. This course will promote the goal of inquiry and critical thinking by having the students rigorously look at how complex moral issues are settled. It will assist their ability to evaluate different moral theories by having them consider various moral theories such as utilitarianism and Kantianism. It will assist the student in the development of their communication skills, because the lecture discussion format of the course will enable students to better express their views and to learn to receive criticism of their opinions. It will assist the students to develop and understanding the complexity of moral issues and how one’s moral decisions can have impact upon the lives of others.

D. Course Outline. This course will be taught by Peter Nicholls or part-time faculty members who have had experience teaching it. It will be taught once each year, beginning 1996-1997. A sample course description and outline are attached.
PHILOSOPHY 209
BUSINESS ETHICS
WINTER 1993

TEXT: MORAL MAZES - JACKALL
PHOTOCOPIES AVAILABLE AT CLEAN COPY

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 two mid-terms and a final. The final is worth 40% of the grade.

Grades: A serious effort will produce at least a grade of C. Serious effort plus a demonstration of some ability will produce a B. A's will be reserved for those who show insight into the issues. Students are encouraged to participate in the discussions in class. This is not mandatory, but useful contributions will be used to judge borderline grades.

Academic honesty is a requirement for a grade.

Final is Wednesday March 17th at 9:30 AM.
SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE  INTRODUCTION
SEPT 19-21  READ: RACHELS - DIVINE COMMAND
           HOSPERS - ETHICAL EGOISM
           JACKALL - CHAPTER ONE

WEEK TWO
SEPT 24-28  READ: CARR - BUSINESS BLUFFING
           KELLY - ITALIAN TAX
           KOTCHIAN - LOCKHEED
           JACKALL - CHAPTER TWO

WEEK THREE
OCT 1-5    READ: VANDIVIER - GOODRICH
           DUSKA - WHISTLEBLOWING
           SABINI AND SILVER - DESTROYING THE INNOCENT
           JACKALL - CHAPTER THREE

MID-TERM: OCT 9
PHIL 209

SCHEDULE

WEEK
OCT 22-26 READ: GOLDMAN
       FRIEDMAN
       ROBINSON
       FORD PINTO

WEEK
OCT 29-   READ: GOLDMAN
NOV 2     NAGEL
          BLOOD FOR SALE
          OZONE THREAT
          ASBESTOS

WEEK
NOV 5-9   READ: TOY WARS
          SUBLIMINAL MAN
          GLOVER

MID-TERM: OCT 9