

Doctoral Program "Ethics and Responsible Leadership in Business"

DOCTORAL SEMINAR "PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS OF LEADERSHIP"

Date Time	22/01/2021	09:00-17:00
	29/01/2021	09:00-17:00
Venue	online course	
Lecturer	PD Dr. Lisa Schmalzried	
(De-)Registration until:	December 13, 2020 via erl@ethicsinbusiness.eu (registering after this date might be possible upon request)	

Content

To fill leadership positions adequately is a demanding task, and some managers are not able or willing to take up this challenge. This is a problem. Bad leadership is responsible for many economic, social, and also personal problems. It impairs a company's performance and its profits, demotivates and daunts employees, or leads to burn outs and depressions. Good leadership on the other hand stimulates innovations and creativity, fosters constructive problem solving, excites employees for new tasks and promotes their talents. The question what defines good and bad leadership is thus highly relevant.

The seminar builds on the assumption that a good leader is an ethic-orientated leader. An ethic-oriented leader aligns their behaviour towards moral values and promotes those in the behaviour of others. One should lead others in an ethic-orientated way because as human beings we are all obliged to act morally whenever we act. Furthermore, such leadership tends to pay off in the long run.

This model of ethic-oriented leadership leads to major (philosophical) questions: When do we act morally? Which values count as moral and why? The seminar introduces some of the most influential answers to these questions that (Western) normative moral philosophy provides. More precisely, it discusses Immanuel Kant's deontological ethics, John Stuart Mill's utilitarianism, Aristoteles' virtue ethics, social contract theories of Thomas Hobbes and John Rawls, and care ethical approaches. Participants will get to know the key theses of these theories and will understand the argumentation leading to these theses. They will also discuss these theories with regard to the leadership and its specific challenges. In doing so, they will develop a better understanding of ethic-oriented leadership and its implications.

Grading

Seminar paper

In the seminar paper, the participants summarize the main theses of one theory (WCGE) / two theories (HHL) discussed in the seminar and show how the theory/the theories can be applied to concrete leadership challenges.

Length (including footnotes and bibliography) : 1800-2500 words (WCGE)

2600-3200 words (HHL)

Deadline:

March 31, 2021

Credits

5 for WCGE students | 6 for HHL students

Time schedule

January 22, 2021

09.00 am – 10.00 am	Welcome / Introduction
10.00 am – 10.30 am	Break
10.30 am – 12.15 am	Deontological Ethics
12.15 am – 01.30 pm	Lunch break
01.30 pm – 03.15 pm	Utilitarianism
03.15 pm – 03.45 pm	Break
03.45 pm – 04.45 pm	Case Study: Deontological Ethics vs. Utilitarianism
04.45 pm – 05.00 pm	Wrap-up: Day 1

January 29, 2021

09.00 am – 10.30 am	Virtue Ethics
10.30 am – 11.00 am	Break
11.00 am – 12.00 pm	Contract Theory
12.00 pm – 01.15 pm	Lunch break
01.15 pm – 02.15 pm	Theory of Justice
02.30 pm – 03.30 pm	Ethics of Care
03:30 pm – 04:00 pm	Break
04:00 pm – 04:45 pm	Case Study: Ethics of Justice vs. Ethics of Care
04:45 pm – 05:00 pm	Final discussion

The seminar literature will be distributed after the registration deadline.