

Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg
Friede-Springer-Endowed Chair of Business Ethics and Management Accounting

Behavioral Business Ethics (PhD course at ERL)

Winter term 2020/21

SYLLABUS

Instructor

Prof. Dr. Philipp Schreck

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Time and Location

Location: online lectures & seminar (via Zoom)

Time: Mondays, 16.00-18:00 (dates see below)

Credits

- 5 (for WCGE students)
- 6 (for HHL students)

Objectives of the Course

The behavioral sciences have reached the field of business ethics. In contrast to the normative question of how individuals *should* decide and behave in business contexts, research in behavioral business ethics is mainly interested in why and how people *actually* take ethical decisions. Specifically, it often aims at understanding personal and situational factors that may cause a gap between an actor's willingness to behave ethically, and his or her actual behavior. To pursue its research objectives, behavioral ethics draws on behavioral psychology, experimental economics, cognitive science and related fields.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to important questions, methodologies, and research results of behavioral business ethics. Based on both classic readings and topical research papers, we will discuss various approaches and findings, and explore their implications for a modern understanding of business ethics. The list of topics we cover is by no means exhaustive, but I hope it gives you a valuable impression of what behavioral business ethics is about.

Structure of the Course

The course will consist of twelve units. In these units, we will cover a broad range of research articles that contribute to the diverse field of behavioral business ethics. The course will be taught as a lecture together with other graduate students from MLU.

Tentative time schedule:

Unit	Topic	Date
1	An Introduction to the Field of Behavioral Business Ethics	Nov. 2, 2020
2	An Introduction to the Experimental Method	Nov. 9, 2020
3	The Economic Approach to Human Behavior	Nov. 16, 2020
4	The Prisoner's Dilemma and the Problem of Cooperation	Nov. 23, 2020
5	Dispositions as a Form of Individual Self-commitment	Nov. 30, 2020
6	Institutions as a Form of Collective Self-commitment	Dec. 7, 2020
7	Models of Ethical Decision Making I: Rest, Haidt	Dec. 14, 2020
8	Models of Ethical Decision Making I: Greene	Dec. 21, 2020
9	Moral Disengagement	Jan. 11, 2020
10	Obedience to Authority	Jan. 18, 2020
11	Heuristics and Biases	Jan. 25, 2020
12	The Normative Relevance of Empirical Research	Feb. 1, 2020

All sessions will be held via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85375807660?pwd=Y1VIWDd1R29FVXJGRnUwSIRlNmRhZz09>

Meeting-ID: 853 7580 7660; Code: 838157

Course Design

Due to the Covid Pandemic, this course will be taught as an online course. For each unit, I will upload a video lecture (available via the online learning platform Stud.IP) one week in advance

to the scheduled date. Please study these videos before coming to class. We will then use the sessions to discuss questions you may have on the lecture. Also, in order to ease the discussion, I will send around questions which I expect you to have prepared before joining the session via Zoom.

Grading

To earn credits, you can either participate in the exam (one hour) or write a seminar paper (details tbd).

Registration

Until October 11, 2020 via erl@ethicsinbusiness.org (registering after this date may be possible upon request)