Doctoral Program "Ethics and Responsible Leadership in Business"

COURSE | THE RISE OF VICTIMHOOD CULTURE

Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Ingo Pies Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg
Date | Time	April 27 & 28, 2023 | 9-18 Uhr
Location	Wittenberg
Credits	5 (for WCGE students) 6 (for HHL students)

Learning Objectives and Outcomes	Ph.D. candidates should read the book and form their own opinion. During the course, they learn to distinguish analytical interpretation from critical evaluation. In likewise fashion, they become familiar with understanding and criticizing positive as well as normative arguments. Based on the practical syllogism, they learn to complement downstream and upstream reasoning. In sum, this course offers to improve one's techniques for text analysis and text discussion.
Content	Campbell and Manning (2018) have written an interesting book about current trends at US-American universities. As sociologists, they claim to observe a new kind of moral culture that blends elements of pre-modern honor cultures with modern enlightenment cultures. They critically discuss several features of this new "victimhood culture" and cover topics such as free-speech laws and controversies about value-free research. This book is especially valuable because it provides a sociological perspective on moral cultures that should be of interest for all kinds of business ethics.
Teaching Methods	The seminar will be a mixture of presentations and discussions. (a) The first day will concentrate on reconstructing the whole book. Ph.D. candidates will introduce each of the nine book chapters with a short (5 minutes) presentation. (b) The second day is reserved for criticisms. We will have an open discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the book.
Conditions for Credit Points and grades	Conditions for obtaining the Credit Points: - Careful reading of the literature provided in advance

	- Active participation in class - Short introductory presentation - Seminar paper Seminar paper (6 pages): You have two options (a) choose an argument from proponents of victimhood culture and formulate a substantial counter-argument, or (b) choose an argument from the book by Campbell and Manning and formulate a substantial counter-argument. Please make clear whether your argument is upstream or downstream.
Literature	Required reading (will be provided in advance): • Lukianoff, Greg and Jonathan Haidt (2015): How Trigger Warnings Are Hurting Mental Health on Campus – The Coddling of the American Mind, in: The Atlantic, September Issue 2015. • Campbell, Bradley and Jason Manning (2018): The Rise of Victimhood Culture. Microaggressions, Safe Spaces, and the New Culture Wars, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. Please read the first text as an appetizer and then carefully study the second text.
Registration	Until February 1, 2023 via lisa.schmalzried@wcge.org (registering after this date might be possible upon request)