

Doctoral Program "Ethics and Responsible Leadership in Business"

DOCTORAL SEMINAR "PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP"

Date Time	January 11, 2024		09:15 am – 05:00 pm
	January 12, 2024		09:15 am – 05:00 pm
Venue	Wilhelm-Weber-Haus Schlossstraße 10 D-06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg Or online (decision based on the preferences of the participants)		
Lecturer	PD Dr. Lisa Schmalzried		
Registration until:	December 15, 2023 via tatjana.arnold@wcge.org		

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 good leadership is ethic-orientated, responsible leadership. An ethic-oriented manager 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 and care ethical approaches. Participants will get to know the key elements 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

The seminar paper consists of a short essay in which participants summarize the main theses of one theory discussed in the seminar and show how the theory can be applied to concrete leadership challenges. The seminar papers will be distributed among the participants.

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

2600-3200 words (HHL)

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2024

Credits

5 for WCGE students | 6 for HHL students

Time schedule

January 11, 2024

09.15 am – 10.15 am	Welcome / Introduction
10.15 am – 10.30 am	Coffee break
10.30 am – 12.30 am	Deontological Ethics
12.30 am – 01.30 pm	Lunch
01.30 pm – 03.30 pm	Utilitarianism
03.30 pm – 03.45 pm	Coffee break
03.45 pm – 04.45 pm	Case Study: Deontological Ethics vs. Utilitarianism
04.45 pm – 05.00 pm	Wrap-up

January 12, 2024

09.15 am – 10.45 am	Virtue Ethics
10.45 am – 11.00 am	Coffee break
11.00 am – 12.00 pm	Contract Theory
12.00 pm – 01.00 pm	Lunch
01.00 pm – 02.00 pm	Theory of Justice
02.00 pm – 03.00 pm	Ethics of Care
03:00 pm – 03:15 pm	Coffee break
03:15 pm – 04:30 pm	Case Study: Ethics of Justice vs. Ethics of Care
04:30 pm – 05:00 pm	Wrap-up: day 2

The seminar literature will be distributed after the registration deadline.