



### FI420 Ethics and Financial Services (Postgraduate)

<b>Instructor Information</b>	<p>Jean-Yves Le Corre          Home Institution: University of Strasbourg          Email: bestofmanagement@outlook.com          Office Hours: Determined by Instructor</p>		
<b>Term</b>	December 13, 2021 - January 7, 2022	<b>Credits</b>	4 units
<b>Class Hours</b>	Monday through Friday, 120 mins per teaching day		
<b>Discussion Sessions</b>	2.5 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
<b>Total Contact Hours</b>	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
<b>Required Texts (with ISBN)</b>	<p>Boatright, John R., Ethics in Finance, 3rd Ed., Wiley Blackwell, 2014,          ISBN-10: 1118615824 / ISBN-13: 978-1118615829          Hartman L., DesJardins J, Business Ethics: Decision making for personal          integrity &amp; social responsibility, China Machine Press          ISBN number: 978 -7-111-5110 – 014          Financing Sustainable Development: Key Challenges and          Prospects, Edited by Magdalena Ziolo · Bruno S. Sergi, , Ed          Palgrave Studies in Impact Finance          ISBN 978-3-030-16521-5 ISBN 978-3-030-16522-2 (eBook)</p>		
<b>Prerequisite</b>	N/A		



## Course Overview

This course aims to explain and analyze issues in “Ethics in Finance” with a particular focus on banking institutions and other financial services-related institutions (audit firms, rating agencies, regulators....) in a global perspective.

This course aims also to develop skills related to business ethics at the workplace, frameworks and methodologies to analyse and solve complex ethical issues both at individual level (business ethics) and organizational level (corporate ethics), including the role of ethical reasoning in decision- making, definitions, concepts and theories for ethical decision- making, ethical leadership and ethics culture. In particular, the financial services industry will be used extensively during this course to discuss ethical issues from multi-level perspective: individual, organizational, industry-level and global perspective.

The course is divided into four parts: introduction to ethics, ethical problem solving; managing business ethics and the role of governance, and global challenges in financial industry worldwide.

The course will analyse ethical issues based on workplace situations using extracts of the movie of *'Margin Call: be first, be smart or cheat'*. Through cases and case discussions, the role of leadership and culture on the ethics of the firm will be extensively discussed. The course will focus on the role of value-based ethics as compared to compliance-based ethics to explain the main components of an ethics program, codes of conduct ethical codes, and assurance frameworks.

The course adopts both *internal* and *external* perspectives, to address the many aspects of business ethics internally (the role of culture, leadership, risk management and control systems). It takes a business perspective on ethical business issues by addressing most significant challenges facing large corporations operating domestically and globally and how businesses can respond to ethical challenges.

At final stage, the course will discuss ethical issues in the global finance industry, including issues related to environment, demographics, with a particular focus of industry-wide issues in the financial services industry worldwide, and the global financial crisis.

During the course, students will work on a financial services company or institution of their choice with regards to ethical issues in the financial services industry. In addition, suitable, selected readings are discussed, providing the students with more insights. Several cases of ethical issues affecting the strategy and operations of finance institutions are discussed during the course.

## Learning Outcomes

The course objective is to provide students with a broad view on ethics in finance, **definitions, concepts and theories for ethical decision- making**, including practical frameworks and tools to help resolve ethical issues in banking institutions, as well as some history on economics, markets and finance

Upon finishing this course, you will have developed an understanding of:

1. How to analyze ethical issues?
2. How are banking institutions affected by those ethical issues?
3. How these issues can be prevented, minimized or solved?
4. The extent to which banks are faced with ethical issues across the globe

## Assessment Type

Achievement of learning outcomes will be assessed through group coursework (case study) and a final (closed book) examination. In addition, students will prepare an oral presentation of around 15- 20 minutes to present their case study on business ethics.

Students will prepare the case study in groups of 5-6 students. Each group will do an oral presentation during the class and will also write a case study report.



## Grading Policy

Final examination	50%
Group Coursework (by groups of 5-6 students)	15%
Oral Presentation (by groups of 5-6 students)	25%
Attendance & Participation	10%

## Grading Scale is as follows

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0



## Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Readings
Day 1	Introduction to Business Ethics (Part 1)	DesJardins J, Chapter 1,2,3
Day 2	Introduction to Business Ethics (Part 2)	DesJardins J, Chapter 1,2,3
Day 3	Ethics, Culture & Leadership	DesJardins J, Chapter 4
Day 4	Ethics Systems & Corporate Governance	DesJardins J, Chapter 10
Day 5	Ethics from Institutional Perspective	Documentary 'Too big to fail'
Day 6	Investors and Risk. Financial markets. CSR/ESG	Documentary 'Inside Job'
Day 7	Ethics & Fraud	DesJardins J, Chapter 10
Day 8	<i>Preparation of group coursework</i> Students will be working in groups with the help of teaching assistant	
Day 9	<i>Preparation of group coursework</i> Students will be working in groups with the help of teaching assistant	
Day 10	<i>Preparation of group coursework</i> Students will be working in groups with the help of teaching assistant	
Day 11	Theoretical Perspectives in Finance	Chapter 2 of Boatright 'Ethics in Finance' study book
Day 12	Ethical issues in Financial Services	Chapter 3 of Boatright 'Ethics in Finance' study book
Day 13	Ethical issues in Investment Decisions	Chapter 4 of Boatright 'Ethics in Finance' study book
Day 14	Ethical issues in Financial Markets	Chapter 5 of Boatright 'Ethics in Finance' study book
Day 15	Ethical issues in Financial Management	Chapter 6 of Boatright 'Ethics in Finance' study book
Day 16	Financial Liberalism	
Day 17	Sustainability in Finance and Economics	Financing Sustainable Development, Chapt 2
Day 18	Socially Responsible Financial Markets	Financing Sustainable Development, Chapt 5
Day 19	Environmental, Social and Governance Risk versus Company Performance	Financing Sustainable Development, Chapt 10
Day 20	Final Examination & Course Summary	