

PHIL 364

Business & Professional Ethics

Professor Laing

T 3:00 – 5:50

Kresge 2425



Overview of class

This course will examine a variety of ethical issues relating to contemporary business. Types of questions will include the following:

Should corporations be viewed solely as profit making-entities? Or should they act so as to maintain economic stability, improve the environment, promote a healthier citizenry, or reduce the number of children who work in foreign countries?

What is the appropriate regulatory response to recent corporate scandals such as Enron, WorldCom, Columbia/HCA, Fannie Mae, AIG others?

How should corporations be evaluated when it comes to such broader issues of social and economic justice as: market stability, CEO compensation, health care coverage and cost, or disparities in income and wealth?

What bearing does the increasing globalization of corporations have on topics such as those identified above?

These issues will be looked at from a philosophical perspective, and we will learn how to think more clearly about complex public policy issues regarding corporations.