

Course Title		
MLI51C100	Corporate Responsibility and Ethics	3 cr
Learning Outcomes and Content		
<p>Outcome: Learning outcomes for this course, upon successful completion, include the ability to: 1) critically evaluate both agency theory and the use of stakeholder analysis, 2) analyze and apply prevailing business ethical models to decision-making (scenarios), 3) identify ethical dilemmas in business and evaluate trade-offs between different stakeholder groups, 4) engage in debate on current ethics and responsibility problems in international business and 5) understand the role of external and industry standards in promoting CSR.</p> <p>Content: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the main theories, models and history of corporate responsibility and business ethics and engage them in critical thinking on contemporary debates on the role of business in society. The course themes include ethics and the market, the role of agency theory in refining the purpose of the business and stakeholder theory. Ethical models and frameworks for decision-making are also addressed and the generally accepted international standards for corporate social responsibility are introduced and evaluated. Students will become familiar with accepted/adopted CSR standards, such as the UN Global Compact and ISO 26000, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Cases will be discussed that highlight the consequences of a lack of ethics and responsibility, as well as the impact of best practice on society and the firm.</p>		

Instructor Name and Profile
Professor Sheila Killian, PhD, University of Limerick, Ireland. Professor Killian teaches corporate responsibility, sustainability and corporate finance at the Kemmy Business School at University of Limerick. Her research is on accountability, professions and professional ethics and the common good. She has editorial roles at the <i>Journal of Business Ethics</i> and <i>Accounting Forum</i> , and is on the editorial board of a range of accounting journals. She has been teaching in Mikkeli since 2003. You are welcome to connect on twitter @sheilakillian or LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/in/skillian

Email Address
sheila.killian@ul.ie

Office Hours
Unless otherwise advised, office hours run from 12.30 to 1.30 each day

Required Reading
No textbook required. Electronic copies of assigned readings will be uploaded to MyCourses. Copyright has been cleared in all cases.

Course Schedule		
Session # and Date	Topic/s	Assignment/s & Readings
Session 1: 9/5/22 Deduction due to an absence on the first day of the course: 5 points (on a 100-point scale) will be deducted from the student's final raw score before converting it to the final grade.	Foundations This session covers foundations of CSR and sustainability; the meaning of responsibility; shifting standards and core pillars of CSR. The SDGs are introduced. The team assignment and first individual assignment are introduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: (note, Monday's readings are to be read after the lecture) • Killian (2012), The shifting standards of Corporate Social Responsibility • ISO 26000 Guidance Document
Session 2: 10/5/22	Looking out – ethics and ecosystem This session covers ethics and ethical decision-making; environmental initiatives; some consumer issues; stakeholder and community engagement; a developmental framework for CSR engagement. More on the SDGs.	ADVANCE READINGS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirvis & Googins (2006), Stages of Corporate Citizenship: A Developmental Framework • Wicks, et al. (2016), Moral Theory, Frameworks & the Language of Ethics & Business ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual mindmap assignment due: 23.55
Session 3: 11/5/22	Looking in – labour, human rights and operating practice This session covers international standards in labour and human rights; some operating practices and sustainable supply chain management.	ADVANCE READINGS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILO (2020) ILO Standards and COVID-19 (coronavirus) • United Nations (2011), Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights • Short case "Clothing Manager's Dilemma" posted on MyCourses
Session 4: 12/4/22	Looking up – accountability, leadership and trust This session covers governance issues; reporting and external standards; trust; leadership and emerging trends. The second individual assignment is introduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADVANCE READINGS: Mirvis & Googins (2006), Stages of Corporate Citizenship: A Developmental Framework • "What's Next for Sustainable Business? 2022 Trends Report" The Sustainability Institute by ERM

Session 5: 13/5/22	Capstone - Presentations Student team presentations in-class, and reflection	ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team PowerPoint and notes due 09.00 • Individual reflection due: 23.55
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Grading

Course Requirements	Weighting (%) or maximum points
Active participation in class discussions	10
Individual mind-map assignment	25
Team assignment (presentation, slides and powerpoint notes)	50
Individual reflection	15
Total	100

Conversion scale	Final grade (official scale)
90 - 100	5
80 - 89	4
70 - 79	3
60 - 69	2
50 - 59	1
0 - 49	0

ECTS STUDENT WORKLOAD

This course is a 3 ECTS unit course, following the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) guidelines of Aalto University School of Business. The number of hours the average student is expected to work in the course is 80 (including in-class and out-of-class work).

Types of Hours	Number of Hours
Contact hours (on- and off-campus):	15
Out-of-class hours:	65
Work with course materials, eg required reading	15
Exam preparation	0
Individual research & writing	15
Team projects (meetings, research, preparation, etc.)	35
Other	0
Total of all student workload hours	80

ACADEMIC POLICY STATEMENTS

CODES OF CONDUCT

Academic excellence and high achievement levels are only possible in an environment where the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity are maintained. Students are expected to abide by the Aalto University Code of Academic Integrity, other relevant codes and regulations, as well as the canons of ethical conduct within the disciplines of business and management education.

In addition, the BScBA Program has strict exam regulations in force which must be followed in all test-taking situations.

TEXTBOOK POLICY

All required textbooks and other course materials are the responsibility of the student. It is the expectation of faculty that all students will have access to the textbooks and other reading material. If a student is not able to purchase his/her own copy of the textbook or other required reading materials, it is nonetheless the student's responsibility to find a way to complete the reading for the course.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (2021 -2022 Pilot)

Class attendance and participation are considered integral parts of teaching and learning at the BScBA program in Mikkeli. Therefore, regular class attendance is required of all students and attendance records are kept for each class. Students are also expected to be in class on time.

If the student participates in the final exam/assessment, it will be graded and counted towards the final grade.

The attendance policy of this course (piloted in the academic year 2021 - 2022) provides that:

- 1) **A maximum of one absence of any kind** is allowed. More absences will result in being dropped from the course.
- 2) Whenever taking an absence, **the student bears the risk of missing class**, and the consequences, which may include a lower participation grade, missing a graded activity, etc.
- 3) **An absence on the first day of the course** will result in 5 points (on a 100-point scale) being deducted from the student's final raw score before converting it to the final grade.
- 4) **A student getting to class after the session has started** will not be able to enter the classroom until the first break and will get an absence for the day.
- 5) It is expected that **students marked present for the day are in class the entire time.**
- 6) **The instructor may include class participation as a component of the grade;** up to 15% of the total points that can be earned toward the final grade.

The instructor for the course will take attendance in classes. The decision to drop a student from a course will be made by the instructor, who will inform Mari Syväoja, Manager of Academic Operations: mari.syvaoja@aalto.fi.

This new policy will be in use as a pilot process for the academic year 2021 - 2022 and will be evaluated after that.