

# NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

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### **SM305 - *Business and Society*** **For Academic Year 2003**

#### **Module Titles**

**Actual:** Business and Society

**Administrative:** Business and Society

#### **Module Information**

It is of Level 3 ,Size 1 and is worth 10 Credit Points.

This Module is not a Year Long Taught Module and was not evolved.

It is not currently obsolete.

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#### **Synopsis of Module:**

*A brief overview of aims, contents, methods and assessment*

The unit provides an opportunity to explore ethical issues which arise in business and provides various frameworks for analysing moral dilemmas and critically analysing currently accepted ethical standards.

Teaching methods include the use of lectures, seminars and case studies and allow opportunity for students contribution to discussion and debate. Assessment is by means of a closed book examination.

#### **Prerequisite(s):**

*Any Module which must already have been taken at a lower level, or any stipulated level of prior knowledge required.*

None

#### **Corequisite(s):**

*Module at the same level which must taken with this Module.*

None

#### **Implications for Choice:**

*Possible follow-on Modules, or exclusions, or Modules which require this one as a prerequisite.*

None

#### **Aims of Module:**

*Specified in terms of general aim of the teaching in its relation to the subject.*

1 To provide students with a framework for the critical analysis of the role of business within society.

2 To provide students with a framework for the critical analysis of the role of ethics within business organisations.

3 To provide students with the opportunity to relate their own moral values to those of business.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

*Specified in terms of performance capability to be shown on completion of the Module.*

By the end of the unit students will be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an awareness of the ethical dimension of current business affairs.
- 2 Describe and differentiate between conventional ethical framework.
- 3 Apply ethical framework to practical business problems.
- 4 Critically evaluate the role of business within society.
- 5 Relate their own moral values to those commonly held in business.

## **Outline Syllabus:**

*The content of the Module, identified in a component listing.*

1. Capitalism and the free market
  - utilitarianism and arguments for efficiency
  - theories of justice and arguments for equity
2. Ethical decision making within organisations
  - consequentialist and non-consequentialist ethics
  - virtue ethics
3. Moral agency of corporations
4. Stakeholder theory
5. Business and the community
6. Business and the environment
7. Business and consumers
8. Business and employees
9. Recent developments in business ethics.

## **Learning, Teaching And Assessment Strategy:**

A didactic approach is relevant for the introduction of much of the material followed by seminar discussions and case studies. Students will be required to read widely both independently and as directed and will be expected to contribute to seminar discussions. Formative assessment will take place through discussion of past papers. Assessment of the unit will be based on a closed book examination which will cover the content of the unit but will also require students to deal with a specific issue in business ethics of which they have personal experience or in which they have a particular interest.

## **Distance Learning Delivery:**

None

## **Indicative Reading List or Other Learning Resources:**

*(Note: all references to be given as per Harvard System)*

- Chryssides, G & Kaler, J - An Introduction to Business Ethics, Chapman & Hall, 1993 (Core Text)  
Sorell, T & Hendry, J - Business Ethics, Butterworth Heinemann 1994  
Moore, G (ed) - Business Ethics: Principles and Practice, Business Education Publishers, 1997  
Solomon, R - Ethics and Excellence, Oxford University Publishing, 1992  
Messick, DM. And Tenbrunsel, AE - Codes of Conduct: Behavioural Research into Business Ethics, Russell Sage Foundation, 1996  
Cannon, T - Corporate Responsibility, Pitman 1994

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## Module Delivery Details - Notional Student Workload (Hours)

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Mode and Location	Lectures	Seminars	Tutorials	Lab Work	Directed Learning	Independent Learning	Formal Assessment	Other	Total
Full Time at City Campus (The duration is 15 weeks)	12	12	0	0	30	46	0	0	100
Part Time at Carlisle (The duration is 15 weeks)	18	0	0	0	30	49	3	0	100
Part Time at City Campus (The duration is 15 weeks)	18	0	0	0	30	49	3	0	100

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## Module Summative Assessment

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Assessment A	This assessment is Examination - (Closed Book) The weighting of this assessment is 100% It does have an examination The week(s) due are 14
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