Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.

Associate Justice Potter Stewart, United States Supreme Court

It takes less time to do things right than to explain why you did it wrong.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet

All that is necessary for evil to flourish is for good people to do nothing

Often attributed to Edmund Burke, 18th century Irish philosopher

Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching – even when doing the wrong thing is legal.

Aldo Leopold, American author and ethicist

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduces students to accounting ethics and professionalism. Independence issues and the Code of Professional Ethics are highlighted.

COURSE MATERIALS:

• Required: Ethics in Accounting; by Gordon Klein. Published by Wiley (ISBN: 9781118928332)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To provide the student with:

1. An understanding of the underlying theory of ethics, professionalism and corporate governance as they pertain to accounting;
2. Practice of applying the theory to accounting cases;
3. Develop ability to analyze, research and use technology in determining the relevance of important ethical and professional concepts and procedures within the perimeters of the business environment.

OBJECTIVES:

This course is about doing the right thing while practicing professional accounting. One part of doing the right thing is knowing what you are expected to do in various situations. Another part of doing the right thing involves persuasion when professionals disagree. The hardest part of doing the right thing is recognizing and avoiding ethical hazards with conflicting expectations.

Accountants have special obligations beyond those of other business practitioners so this course develops the ethical analysis beyond philosophy ethics courses and beyond business ethics courses. While Accountancy Boards may require ethics education, to enter the profession, or even sit for the CPA exam, this course is aimed at your whole career (even your whole life) rather than coaching for ethics coverage on any examination.
This course emphasizes critical thinking beyond memorizing vocabulary, facts, skills or procedures. There are three main types of learning this semester and different methods are appropriate for each:

**Ethical Decision Analysis** – being able to express reasoning for which alternatives are more or less ethical and for which arguments will be persuasive to other professional accountants, other business colleagues and to society as well. We will learn about corporate ethical decision making by reading, by thinking, by writing and through oral argument using logic and evidence rather than authority, intuition, or stubbornness.

**Expectation Awareness** – being able to recognize the names and meanings of the society’s and the profession’s expectations for those authorized to practice the profession of accounting. We will rely heavily on independent reading to become familiar with what ought to be done and especially what might be difficult to do.

**Rehearsal** – being able to recognize, avoid, and react to ethical decision situations is improved most effectively by experience. Since we cannot actually place ourselves in possible ethical trouble during the semester we will rely on case situations where students attempt to identify with characters and react to the situation as if it were theirs.

**PREREQUISITES:**

A. **Knowledge:** Admission to the M.P.Ac. Program

B. **Technology:** The ability to retrieve materials from BlackBoard.

C. **Technical Support:** The Technology Support Center can be contacted by calling 325-942-2911 or email at helpdesk@angelo.edu for Blackboard or other ASU technology issues.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

A. **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:** This course will consist of discussions, presentations (both individual and team), quizzes, homework, independent study, independent writing and research, papers and critical analyses.

B. **ATTENDANCE:** ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED. Attendance will not be taken for this class, but it will be necessary for you to come to class to pass the course. Attend every class. Come on time, stay until class is over. Be prepared to listen to others, and to speak out for yourself.

C. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Assignments:** There will be numerous case assignments that are assigned in class. In addition some assignments may be team assignments that will include presentations to the class.

2. **Class Participation:** You are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in all class discussions. Class participation is especially important in this course because a vibrant debate of various alternative means for resolving ethical issues is invaluable in developing ethical decision-making skills. Because many of the ethical dilemmas examined in this course do not have clear-cut answers, the quality of your participation will be evidenced by sound preparation and well-developed reasons in support your answer. It is also possible that there will be times when there are uncomfortable topics either discussed or opinions given by your classmates. All opinions, particularly those that may challenge accepted norms, are welcome. You will not be evaluated based on whether your responses are “right” or “wrong.” There is no formal point system for participation and I realize that some people are uncomfortable speaking in class. That being said, you must learn to address this feeling and speak up. Everyone learns from everyone else in a class of this type and your views are needed and important.
3. **Examinations:** There will be two exams in this course. These exams will cover material covered in lectures, readings, class discussions and presentations. In addition there will be a focus on AICPA, Texas, IRS and SEC ethics rules.

Make-up Examinations: Make-ups are permitted only on rare occasions, with permission of the instructor.

**D. GRADING POLICY:** Your grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter cases, quizzes and assignments</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 90 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79 points</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>60-69 points</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60 points</td>
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I do not curve individual assignments, exams or the final course grades. It is my policy is to strictly adhere to the course grading scale; in other words, 359 points is a "B" not an "A".

I do not give grades. You earn your grade. I merely record your scores. If you need a particular grade in this class to maintain a scholarship, to make the Dean’s List, to graduate, or for whatever reason, plan now to DO THE WORK TO EARN THE POINTS that equals that grade. **There are absolutely NO extra credit or grade improvement opportunities offered in this course.**

**E. CLASSROOM POLICIES:** Students are expected to display professional conduct during class. You should arrive on time and be in your seat at the scheduled class start time and when we return from breaks. In general I will start exactly on time at the beginning of class and following breaks. However, if you must be late, please still come to class. I would rather you come I late than miss the material.

In addition to the above the following rules will also apply:

1. Please do not disrupt the class by talking to others. If you have a question please ask me.
2. Please turn off your cell phones so that it does not distract others. Also refrain from texting or “surfing the internets (sic)” during class. If you feel the need to do this please leave the room and do not distract those around you.
3. You are the only one that can drop you from this course. I cannot drop you from the course. The last day to drop this class is Friday, November 3, 2017. Do not just quit coming to class. If you do you will receive an "F" in the course. You are tentatively scheduled to take your 2nd exam on the last day to drop. I will do my best to get these exams graded in time for you to make an informed decision regarding dropping or staying in the course.

**F. ACADEMIC HONESTY:**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the University Honor Code, which is found on pages 16 to 20 in both the print and web versions of the Student Handbook. The web version of the honor code can be reached at:


I presume that all students can be trusted with regard to the University Honor Code. Please do not violate this trust. Violations of the honor code will result in a grade of “F” for the course.

**G. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
A student with a disability may require an accommodation(s) to participate in the course. If so, the student must contact me within the first two weeks of the semester. The student, the Student Life Office and I will then work on accommodations. Failure to contact me in a timely manner will delay any accommodations they may be seeking.
H. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS CODE OF ETHICS:
Students, faculty, administrators and professional staff of the College of Business should always:

- Be forthright and truthful in dealings with all stakeholders
- Take responsibility for one's actions and decisions
- Serve as an example of ethical decision-making and behavior to others
- Admit errors when they occur, without trying to conceal them
- Respect the basic dignity of others by treating them as one would wish to be treated

I. TENATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:  I am sure of only one thing in this class; this schedule will change. So listen in class for any changes. We will not cover all the material in each chapter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Intro, Chapter 1 Introduction to Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Ethical Principles and Reasoning and Chapter 3 Core Philosophies</td>
<td>No Class 9/4</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Other Philosophies and Social Responsibilities</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Behavioral Ethics: Why People Cheat</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Greed and Corruption</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Fraud and Earnings Management</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Chapter 8 Discreditable Acts</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Exam #1 (Chapters 1 through 8) and Chapter 9 Confidentiality</td>
<td>Exam #1 on Monday, 10/16</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Confidentiality and State Board Rules Guest Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Conflicts of Interest</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop, Friday, 11/3/2017</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Whistleblowing</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Chapter 13 Public Audits and Sarbanes-Oxley Act</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Chapter 14 Tax Practitioners Duties</td>
<td>No Class 11/22</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Chapter 14 Taxpayer Duties</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Chapter 16 Workplace Duties</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>12/11 @ 3:30 PM</td>
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Important Dates:

- 9/4/2017, Monday  No class, Labor Day Holiday
- 10/16/2017, Monday  Exam #1 over Chapters 1 through 8
- 11/3/2017, Friday  Last Day to Drop
- 11/22/2017, Wednesday  No class, Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/11/2017, Monday  Exam #2 over Chapters 9 through 16 (no Chapter 15)

Note the time for this exam is from 3:30 to 5:30