

PHIL 318 Final Exam

Fall 2011

Directions: I'll give you two options for the final exam:

Option (1): Pick ONE of the topics on p. 2 below, each of which gives a link to an article that raises some ethical issues related to business. The articles might not explicitly mention much about ethics, but your job here is to identify an ethical issue that presents itself in the article, sort out the possible answers and their support, and to defend your own position on it. **Minimum length: Two full single-spaced pages**, not including your works cited list (which may include other sources at your discretion, incidentally).

Option (2): Choose any TWO of the topics available, and write two analyses, one for each topic. **Minimum length for each analysis: One full single-spaced page**, not including your works cited list.

Here are the basic directions on content, and these are the things I'll be evaluating in assigning the grade:

1. **Identify a significant ethical question** that is raised by the article.
2. **List the constituencies** that are relevant to that question.
3. **Consider some defenses of at least two different answers to that question.** You must make some use of the article for the topic you choose. Use the ethical theories you studied in the course as you see fit too.
4. **Take a side on what the answer to your question is and argue for it.** There should be some discussion also of why the opposing views have bad arguments: Why should we accept your view over the other ones?

Include some non-moral facts as necessary to make things clear, but that shouldn't take up much of your analysis. Notice how the directions mirror what you've done with your case study and the discussions of them. Use your knowledge of how to do those things by way of analyzing something that might not include any explicit mention of ethics. Notice also #4, which adds the component that you defend your own view on the question you choose to consider. You've done that to some extent in the blog discussions.

Other points:

- **Sources:** You may consult other sources if you think it is necessary, but for any of those, you must cite them using an appropriate citation method. A works cited list should be included as well.
- **Writing quality:** The writing should be well-organized and well-written. The "fatal error" policy from the blogs and the case study assignment is in place here too.

How to turn in your exam: Put your analysis (or analyses, if you're taking option (2)) into a single document with the appropriate header information and material to identify which topic(s) you're analyzing. Upload it at the SafeAssign link on Blackboard.

Due date: Turn in your exam by **2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13.**

Topics:

1. “Boeing battle: Was Dreamliner move to S.C. legal or strike retaliation?” *PBS Newshour*, June 17, 2011 (URL http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/business/jan-june11/boeingjobs_06-17.html) (On the dispute over Boeing’s planned relocation of a unionized plant’s operations in Washington state to a non-unionized plant in South Carolina. Do some Googling and you’ll find more recent news, though it’s difficult to find reporting that isn’t slanted at least somewhat one way or the other.)
2. “Facebook settles FTC charges that it deceived consumers by failing to keep privacy promises,” FTC news release, November 29, 2011 (URL <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2011/11/privacysettlement.shtm>) (On settlement of a government lawsuit against Facebook regarding Facebook’s alleged use of personal information)
3. James Nash, “Amazon’s California sales-tax reprieve is approved by Brown” *Bloomberg*, September 23, 2011 (URL <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-23/amazon-s-california-sales-tax-reprieve-is-approved-by-brown.html>) (On delaying for one year a new requirement in California that online retailers begin collecting state sales taxes. Prior to the new law, online retailers such as Amazon.com did not need to collect sales taxes on online sales.)
4. “The magic of diasporas,” *The Economist*, November 19, 2011 (URL <http://www.economist.com/node/21538742>) (On the value of immigrant labor with respect to the world market)
5. Joel Stonington, “B-schools’ new mantra: Ethics and profits,” *Bloomberg Businessweek*, November 10, 2011 (URL <http://www.businessweek.com/business-schools/bschools-new-mantra-ethics-and-profits-11102011.html>) (On teaching ethics courses as part of the business curriculum) (See also “What should we teach our business leaders?” *Bloomberg Businessweek*, November 10, 2011 (URL <http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/what-should-we-teach-our-business-leaders-11102011.html>) (Short comments on ethics and business education by the dean of Harvard Business School and the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard)