GENERAL INFORMATION

Course information	
Name	Business Ethics
Code	
Degree	Máster Universitario en Sector Eléctrico
Year	2017-2018
Semester	2nd (Spring)
ECTS credits	1 ECTS
Type	Elective
Department	DOI
Area	
Coordinator	José Ángel Ceballos

Instructor	
Name	Ignacio Ramos Villar
Department	ICADE - Departamento de Derecho Económico y Social
Area	
Office	
e-mail	irvillar@comillas.edu
Phone	615 35 01 00
Office hours	Arrange an appointment through email or telephone

DETAILED INFORMATION

Contextualization of the course
Contribution to the professional profile of the degree
The course aims to contribute to the understanding of the ethical dimension of the problems engineers and executives have to face through managing organizations. Society increasingly requires professionals to be capable of facing and satisfactorily solving situations which encompass dilemmas and implications of an ethical-professional nature, which will not only affect them personally or professionally, but also have consequences that go beyond their own personal lives. To deal with these situations, it is insufficient to simply possess ethical sensitivity, which occasionally implies mere subjective intuitions. One needs to be able to assess, with responsibility, the implications of certain situations and the consequences of possible actions.   Thus, together with the technical training specific to their respective specializations (or majors), it is indispensable for the future engineer to be trained to soundly and responsibly tackle the ethical implications of his/her activity.
Prerequisites
No prerequisites needed.

CONTENTS

Contents
1. *The importance of ethics management in organizations*.
Exploring the alternatives of a company not being ethical. The ethics of businesses. Definitions, fundamentals and benefits. Components of a Business Ethics Plan: the Code of Ethics.
2. *Wider basis of business: from stakeholder theory to CSR*.
The role of business in the society: mission, vision and values statement. Multi-stakeholder approach to business management: the CSR.
3. *Fundamentals of CSR*.
Levels of CSR. Motivations to align business strategy to CSR. Stakeholders' vs company's benefits.
4. *Management and implementation of CSR*.
Reviewing the strategy of a company. From planning to execution.
5. *Samples of best practices*

Competences and Learning Outcomes
Competences
Basic Competences
CB3.- Saber evaluar y seleccionar la teoría científica adecuada y la metodología precisa de sus campos de estudio para formular juicios a partir de información incompleta o limitada incluyendo, cuando sea preciso y pertinente, una reflexión sobre la responsabilidad social o ética ligada a la solución que se proponga en cada caso.
Specific Competences
CE21. Reflexionar sobre la necesidad de encontrar estrategias de desarrollo sostenible desde los puntos de vista medioambiental, social y económico y entender la importancia de plantear la dinámica empresarial desde la perspectiva ética y responsable.
Learning outcomes
The course aims to contribute to the understanding of the ethical dimension of the problems managers have to face through managing organizations and the contribution that the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can make to a more humanistic society. Therefore, the student will connect Ethics and CSR to the different areas of the business, to materialize their presence in the decision-making process. In particular, the specific objectives are:
* To understand the importance and need of including the ethical and responsible

dimension in business management. Reflection about the company's mission statement.
* To foster ethical values throughout the company to be aligned to individual and organizational behavior and to the triple bottom line.
* To identify conflict situations and dilemmas to be managed in the daily business performance, and how to solve them.
* To rethink the company purpose in the present socio-economic context, focusing the specifications of the electric power industry.
* To learn how to manage a company, according to ethical and responsible standards.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

General methodological aspects	
This course addresses three intertwined areas of learning: 1st - Knowledge 2nd - Analytical skills 3rd - Self-reflection	
In-class activities	**Competences**
1. Theoretical presentations led by teacher and classmates. 2. Class discussion (4 hours; 100% classroom training), defending their own thesis and positions, empowering their communication and argumentation skills. 3. Lectures (6 hours; 100% classroom training): Presentation of the main concepts and procedures, by the instructor and professionals from the power sector. They will include dynamic presentations, scenarios, and the participation and interaction with students.	CB3; C21
Out-of-class activities	**Competences**
1. Written assignments to be presented during the course, for which individual reading and studying will be required (20 hours; 0% classroom training).	CB3; C21

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING CRITERIA

Assessment activities	Grading criteria	Weight
• Attendance and active participation in class.	• The attendance of the sessions is compulsory, having read before the required readings. At the beginning of the sessions indicated, the student has to	**30%**

	present the corresponding assignments.	
• Individual and team papers.	• Understanding of the theoretical concepts. • Application of these concepts to problem-solving. • Critical analysis of numerical exercises results.	**30%**
• Final team presentation.	• Understanding of the theoretical concepts. • Application of these concepts to problem-solving. • Critical analysis of numerical exercises results.	**40%**

Grading and Course Rules

1. Attendance and active participation in class (30%)
2. Individual and team papers (30%)
3. Final team presentation (40%)

• Class attendance is mandatory according to Article 93 of the General Regulations (Reglamento General) of Comillas Pontifical University and Article 6 of the Academic Rules (Normas Academicas) of the ICAI School of Engineering. Not complying with this requirement may have the following consequences:

• Students who fail to attend more than **15%** of the lectures may be denied the right to take the final exam during the regular assessment period.

Students who commit an irregularity in any graded activity will receive a mark of zero in the activity and disciplinary procedure will follow (cf. Article 168 of the General Regulations (Reglamento General) of Comillas Pontifical University).

A retake exam only for students whose final score is below 5,00 (out of 10,00 points) will take place two weeks after the end of the lecture period. It will be a written exam and will include all the subject contents. Attendance and participation in class, or individual and team papers, will not be considered in this case.

WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE

Since this is a 10 hours subject a detailed work plan of the subject will be provided in the first session.

STUDENT WORK-TIME SUMMARY			
IN-CLASS HOURS			
Lectures	**Problem-solving**	**Lab sessions**	**Assessment**
6			4
OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS			
Self-study	**Lab preparation**	**Lab report writing**	**Final project**
10			10
ECTS credits: 1 (10 hours)			

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic bibliography
• Bilbao, G.; Fuertes, J.; Guibert, J.M. Ética para Ingenieros. Desclée De Brower. 2006.
• Etxeberría, X. Ética básica. Universidad de Deusto. 1998.
• Etxeberría, X. Temas básicos de ética. Desclée De Brower. 2002.
• Hortal, A. Ética general de las profesiones. Desclée De Brower. 2002.
• Hortal, A. Ética profesional y universidad. Universidad Católica Andrés Bello. 2007.

Complementary bibliography
• Camacho, I.; Fernandez, J.L.; González, R.; Miralles, J. Ética y Responsabilidad Empresarial. Desclée, 2013.
• Harris, Ch.E.; Pritchard, M.S.; Rabins, M.J.. Engineering Ethics. Concepts and Cases. Wadsworth. 4th ed. 2009.
• Martin M.W.; Schinzinger R.. Introduction to Engineering Ethics. McGraw-Hill Higher Education. 2nd Ed. 2010.
• Johnson, D.G.; Wetmore, J.M. Technology and Society: Building our Sociotechnical Future (Inside Technology). MIT Press. 2008.
• Kallman, E.A.; Grillo, J.P. Ethical Decision Making & Information Technology: An Introduction with Cases. McGraw-Hill. 1996.