Course title: Business and Ethics (in English)
Course code: Ekon2026
Credit points: 2
ECTS credit points: 3
Total Contact Hours:

Course abstract
This course examines major ethical theories and explores the application of those theories to current business, moral, and social issues. Illustrative case studies are used as well as other group exercises to enable the student to identify particular ethical dilemmas and their consequences for business execution.

Methods of teaching: lectures, case studies, group and individual exercises

Requirements for awarding credit points
Method of examination: Written exam to be delivered 2 weeks after the course by email to the lecturer

Course content
Day 1
Introduction to business ethics. Definition and historical background. Business ethics-separation theory.
-Chapter 27 „A brief history of American business ethics
-Chapter 28 „Business ethics in Europe: a tale of two efforts”

Day 2
How ethical judgment is formed? Institutional framework – culture and socialization
Personal framework – moral philosophies (teleological, deontological, virtue, relativistic) and moral ideologies (idealistic, relativistic)
Moral stages of development

Literature:
-Chapter 1 „A Kantian approach to business ethics”
-Chapter 2 „Utilitarianism and business ethics”
-Chapter 3 „Business ethics and virtue”
-Chapter 6 „Outline of ethical relativism and ethical absolutism”

Day 3
Ethical issues in business – (e.g. Corruption, Discrimination, Fraud, Property Rights, Conflict of Interest)

Literature: TBA

Day 4
Business ethics and corporate social responsibility. Social responsibility of business – shareholder and stakeholder perspective. CSR in practice – Canon’s Kyosei.

Literature:
Day 5
Bounded rationality and bounded ethicality – cognitive biases in decision making and their influence on ethical behaviour

Literature:

Compulsory reading
Course materials: Compendium of selected articles and textbook chapters