PHL/MGT 248 Business Ethics

Final Paper

**DUE 21 November at 12:00 PM (noon) via D2L**

In a 1500-2000 word essay, address a contemporary issue from the business world, broadly construed, and discuss and evaluate it through an ethical framework (or frameworks) that we have discussed this quarter.

This final essay provides you with a great deal of freedom to pick a topic that interests you and to evaluate that topic in any way you see fit, *so long as* you are appealing in *great detail* to primary sources we have read this quarter. This means not only stating what, for example, Kant thinks (e.g. lying is wrong), but *precisely why* he comes to the conclusions he does. This will involve showing your in-depth knowledge of texts we have read this quarter, and then demonstrating how these ideas are either relevant or not to a contemporary example from the business world.

Note: I am not evaluating you based on how well you can state your own personal beliefs. These will no doubt come into play, either implicitly or explicitly, but you will be graded for how well you present the texts we have studied and bring them into conversation with one another, *not* what your own personal position on a matter is.

I will be posting various possible contemporary issues to D2L that you might want to write on. You may choose one of these, or you may come up with your own. However, if you choose your own topic, you must consult me **by November 14** and propose the topic you will be discussing, and what texts you will be using to discuss it. I will then either approve it as a topic or ask you to revise it. If you choose a topic from D2L you do not have to ask for approval on your decision.

Instructions

Half of your essay should be dedicated to outlining the issue at hand and the relevant ethical frameworks you will be using to evaluate it. Only one ethical framework is necessary, but you are welcome to integrate various perspectives that we have studied this quarter.

The second half of the essay will be an opportunity for you to bring the thinker(s) into dialogue with the contemporary issue you have chosen, and for you to evaluate what such a comparison shows that may not otherwise be apparent.

Your thesis statement will state exactly what it is you are *arguing* in the second half of the paper. In some ways constructing a good thesis statement will be the most difficult part of this assignment. I have attached a document on D2L that aims to further help you with this, and more will be said in class.

Your paper should be organized in a standard essay-format, with an introduction, body, and conclusion. A clear thesis statement should appear somewhere in the opening (i.e. introductory) paragraph. Mark your thesis statement by underlining it. 1-inch margins, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and double-spacing should also be implemented.

You *must frequently* cite the texts you are discussing, and your grade *is* dependent on you using citations properly and formatting them in a consistent way (you may choose the style of your choice, but make sure it is consistent).

**All quotes or paraphrasing of *any* text or source should include citations, and failure to do so will result in an F on the assignment.**

If you would like me to look over any draft, outline, notes, etc. you may send me what you have by November 14th and I will return notes on what you have sent within a few days (keep in mind that the deadline for your final version is November 21st). I am also happy to meet in person and discuss your paper with you.

A rubric and further instructions on writing a good thesis have been posted to D2L.