UGBA 127: Ethics in Accounting

Course Objectives
- Recognize issues in accounting that have ethical implications
- Develop a sense of ethical responsibility
- Learn tools and techniques to address ethical dilemmas
- Cultivate professional judgment to work with the uncertainties of the accounting profession

Course Overview
This course focuses on the ethics related to the accounting for and reporting of financial statements and related financial information, and touches on the ethics of tax preparers. It teaches the concepts within the context of the American Institute of Certified Public Accounting (AICPA), as well as broader ethical concepts. This course fulfills the accounting ethics education requirement of the California Board of Accountancy, needed for a California CPA license.

The first half of the course we will learn the theories and rules, then we will apply the theories and rules in real life case studies.

Students interested in accounting careers (public, corporate, not-for-profit or government), corporate finance, business law and business systems will benefit from this course. To succeed in these demanding professions requires integrity, intelligence, motivation, dedication, adaptability, writing skills, interpersonal skills and teamwork. This course will tap into all these elements of the students.

This course is different from many other accounting classes, as there is not a correct answer. This course will require the application of analytical thinking, not just memorization. There will be a significant amount of reading and case study assignments. The lectures will highlight key elements from the readings. This class is interactive thus, students should be prepared to participate in class discussion.

Being Professor Rasmussen worked in public accounting for over 27 years, she will bring real world experience to the sessions and welcomes your questions about applying the topics covered in the accounting profession.

Course Materials
- Ethics in Accounting: A Decision Making Approach, Gordon Klein, WILEY
- Detecting Accounting Fraud: Analysis and Ethics, Cecil W. Jackson, PEARSON
  ISBN: 978-0-13-307860-2, as low as $49
- Various case studies via Study.Net, approximately $6

Prerequisites
UGBA 102A, Introduction to Financial Accounting or its equivalent

Structure of the Course
Each topic will be introduced using a lecture/discussion format. The material will be illustrated by reference to textbook examples and real world experiences. We will then use a combination of cases, articles, and more sophisticated problems to solidify your understanding of the concepts and to enhance your ability to perform the analytical thinking required. Guest lecturers from the accounting profession are planned for various topics.

Students are expected to have read the assigned materials before class. Lectures use a combination of PowerPoint slides and handouts. Copies of lecture notes and other materials will be distributed in class and posted to bCourses after class. The use of computers and other electronic devices by students in class is unnecessary.