CHAPTER 2
ETHICS & OUR LAW
SECTION 2-1 WHAT IS ETHICS?

- Objectives
  - Define ethics
  - Describe each element of the definition of ethics
  - Define business ethics
SECTION 2-1 WHAT IS ETHICS?

- Ethics
  - Deciding what is right or wrong in a reasoned, impartial manner
SECTION 2-1 WHAT IS ETHICS?

Three elements to making ethical decisions

- You make a decision about what is right or wrong
- That decision is thought out and reasoned
- You take the feelings of others into account when making the decision.
SECTION 2-1 WHAT IS ETHICS?

- **Decision about right or wrong**
  - The decision must affect you or others in a significant way
    - Example

- **Decision is reasoned**
  - The decision is based on reason not on emotion
  - What are some reasons people will choose not to do something that’s unethical?
SECTION 2-1 WHAT IS ETHICS?

- Decision is Impartial
  - Impartiality:
    - the idea that the same ethical standards are applied to everyone.
    - if it is wrong for you to do something, then it is also wrong for me to do the same thing
  - Ethics shouldn’t value one group over another
  - Balance our self-interests with the interests of others
SECTION 2-1 WHAT IS ETHICS?

- **Business Ethics:**
  - the ethical principles used in making business decisions

- Ethics aren’t always considered when making business decisions
  - Why?

- Bernie Madoff
  - Defrauded investors out of $50 billion
Ten questions to ask yourself when making ethical decisions

Should I or shouldn't I?
Section 2-1 What is Ethics?

- Ethics Activity
  - On a half sheet of notebook paper, write down an ethical decision that you’ve recently made. Do NOT put your name on your sheet of paper
  - It can be choosing to do the right thing or wrong thing.
    - Did you copy answers from your neighbors test? Did you find a cell phone in the hallway and turn it in? Etc.
  - Be as specific as possible
  - Be sure this is something appropriate
  - We will discuss these as a class.
Objectives

- Reason based on consequences
- Reason using ethical rules
SECTION 2-2 REASONING ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG

- Ethical reasoning about right & wrong takes two basic forms
  - Consequence based ethics
  - Rules based ethics


**SECTION 2-2 REASONING ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG**

- **Consequence Based Ethics**
  - Right or wrongness is based only on the results of the action
    - If the ethical decision produces a good consequence then it was a good decision.
    - If the ethical decision produces a bad consequence then it was a bad decision.
  - What are some problems with this type of reasoning?
**Consequence-Based Reasoning:**

Form of ethical reasoning that evaluates the result of an action

1. Looks for alternative ways to act in a situation.
2. Forecast the consequences of each of those alternatives.
3. Evaluate the consequences – figure out the best decision for “The Good” of everyone
SECTION 2-2 REASONING ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG

- **Rules Based Ethics**
  - Acts are either right or wrong
  - Good consequences don’t justify wrong or bad acts
    - Ex: You cannot justify that stealing a cell phone is a good thing only because you didn’t get caught.
SECTION 2-2 REASONING ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG

- **Fundamental Ethical Rules**
  - The acts themselves are judged as right or wrong
  - Standard for judging comes from one of two sources:
    - *A recognized authority*
      - Law or religion says it’s right or wrong
    - *Human reasoning*
      - Does it pass the “reasonable person test”
  - **Universalizing**
    - Would the decision make sense if everyone in the world acted that way
In partners, you will be assigned a case that deals with an ethical decision that needs to be made.

Come to a group consensus with your answers, and have good discussions!!
GOLF ETHICS

- In groups of two or three, read and discuss the article about professional golfer J.P. Hayes.

- Do you feel he made the correct decision?

- Why do you think he made that decision?

- Would you have made the same decision he did?

- What type of person do you think J.P. Hayes is based off reading the article? Why do you think that?
SECTION 2-3 HOW IS ETHICS EXPRESSED IN OUR LAWS?

- Objectives
  + Explain how our laws reflect ethics based reasoning.
  + Discuss why we are obligated to obey laws.
Laws that Reflect Ethics Based on Consequences

- In the United States the people determine the laws that bind them.
- We elect representatives, and they decide which laws to pass.
  - **Majority Rule:**
    - Elected officials vote for laws acceptable to a majority of the people they represent.
SECTION 2-3 HOW IS ETHICS EXPRESSED IN OUR LAWS?

Laws that Reflect Rules Based Ethics

- Laws are created to prevent wrongs from happening to others
  - We have laws against slavery because it is wrong

Civil Rights:
- are personal, human rights recognized and guaranteed by the constitution
Ethical Goals are Reflected in Our Laws

- Some laws simply need to be consistent to assure order and predictability
  - Ex: DUI in Illinois is a .08 BAC or above
  - .079 is not DUI
  - .081 is a DUI
- Need to have that consistency in order to maintain order
SECTION 2-3 HOW IS ETHICS EXPRESSED IN OUR LAWS?

Why do we obey laws?

- Because of ethics, we know what’s right and wrong
- Maintains order in society
- Don’t want to be punished
- Some professions are closed to persons with criminal backgrounds

**Integrity:**

- doing what is right even with pressure to do otherwise
Are we justified to ever violate the law?

- **Civil Disobedience:**
  - open, peaceful, violation of a law to protests its alleged injustice
    - Goal is not to promote self-interests but to make legal system more fair
    - Participants may be eager to be arrested so they can fight the law in court

- **Scofflaws:**
  - those who deliberately break the law – they’re never ethically justified in breaking the law
SECTION 2-3 HOW IS ETHICS EXPRESSED IN OUR LAWS?

Dr. Martin Luther King’ Justification

- Civil disobedience is ethical/justified if:
  1. Law is in conflict with ethical reasoning
  2. No effective political methods available to change it
  3. The civil disobedience is non-violent
  4. The civil disobedience does not advance one’s self-interest
  5. The civil disobedience is public, and participants willingly accept the punishment for participating (ex: arrest)
WITH A PARTNER... ANSWER THE FOLLOWING CH. 2 QUESTIONS

- P 27 #6, 7, 10
- P30 #7, 8, 10
- P35 #9 & 10