

Subject card

Subject name and code	Ethics of Economics or Ethics Economy, PG_00172178						
Field of study	International Economic Relations						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Humanistic-social subject group		
Mode of study	part-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form				
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Joanna Fryca				
	Teachers		dr Joanna Fryca				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	12		4.0		34.0	50
Subject objectives	To broaden the cognitive perspective and complement the knowledge, skills and competencies acquired in the economics major with issues of ethics, with particular emphasis on business ethics. In addition, the goal is to expand the knowledge of businesses in the context of their ethical organizational behavior.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
	[MSG3_K02] critically assesses the level of his/her knowledge in the field of economics; is willing to deepen and update this knowledge throughout his/her life		Critically assesses the level of his knowledge of the ethical considerations of doing business, with particular emphasis on international business.		[SK3] text preparation/written work		
	[MSG3_U05] can use basic regulations and standards which determine business activity, as well as accounting principles in order to solve specific tasks related to the activity of enterprises		Able to take into account ethical standards in business, with a particular focus on international business.		[SU3] text preparation/written work		
	[MSG3_W14] knows and understands basic terms and principles of intellectual (industrial) property protection and copyright law		Understands the basic concepts and ethical principles relevant to business, especially in the context of intellectual (industrial) property and copyright, analyzing ethical dilemmas when in doubt of interpretation during consultations.		[SW3] text preparation/written work		
	[MSG3_U04] uses the acquired theoretical knowledge in economics to analyse and evaluate the operation of economic entities on the international market, with particular emphasis on the European Union market		He is able to apply knowledge of the social sciences, especially economics and finance with a particular focus on ethical aspects relevant in the international business space.		[SU3] text preparation/written work		

Subject contents	I. THEORETICAL FUNDAMENTALS Topic 1: Ethics and economics - conflict or complementarity? Outline of the issue: is economics ethically neutral? History of the relationship between ethics and economics. Homo oeconomicus vs homo moralis. Review of philosophical and economic perspectives. Ethical dilemmas in economics. Topic 2: Philosophical foundations of ethics in economics Man - ethics - economics. Utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics - comparison. Concepts of goodness, justice, duty. Morality of action vs. economic results. The role of conscience, responsibility and intention in economics. Topic 3: Religious and cultural roots of ethical thinking about economy Religious and cultural sources of ethics. Characteristics of selected religions in an ethical context. Mem as a tool for the spread of cultural values. Cultural determinants of attitudes toward wealth, work and responsibility. Evolution of ethical values II. ETHICS OF THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES - MACRO LEVEL Topic 4: The economy and ethics The economy as a social system: neutral or value-laden? Consequences of systemic choices (capitalism, socialism). Economic growth vs. the common good. Ethical tensions between efficiency and justice. How to create a value-based economy? Topic 5: Capitalism and moral values Ethical foundations of capitalism: property, profit, competition. Criticism of capitalism: exploitation, alienation, inequality. Capitalism and the moral development of individuals and societies. The future of capitalism: inclusiveness, sustainability, ESG. Alternative models: common good economics, post-growth. Topic 6: Tax ethics and income redistribution Morality of taxes: duty or coercion? Redistribution as an expression of solidarity and justice. Ethics of tax avoidance and tax havens. The justice of fiscal systems. The state as a moral regulator. Topic 7: Economic crises and moral dilemmas Ethical analysis of the causes of crises. Responsibility of institutions and individuals for the consequences of crises. Morality of bank bailouts vs. fate of ordinary citizens. Crises as a test of the value of the economic system. Ethical lessons from crises: what to change? III. ETHICS IN INSTITUTIONS - MEZO LEVEL Topic 8: The market and ethics Is the market ethically blind? - arguments for and against. Information, competition and trust as ethical goods. Market mechanisms vs. distributive justice. Limits of market freedom - regulation and responsibility. Moral consequences of the invisible hand of the market. Topic 9: Enterprise and ethics CSR and ESG - fashion or foundation of ethical business? The company as an entity of social responsibility. Relationships with employees, customers, the environment. The balance between profit and values. Codes of ethics and their role in management. Topic 10: Profession and ethics Work ethics and professional dignity in an age of uncertainty Economist, accountant, manager - professions of public trust? Professional ethics vs. professional codes. Conflicts of interest, professional responsibility and whistleblowing. Moral mission of the economic professions. IV. ETHICS OF UNITY AND CONSUMPTION - MICRO LEVEL Topic 11: Work ethics and fairness of wages Work as a moral value - dignity, meaning, development. What does it mean: fair pay? Wage equality and discrimination. Precarity, automation, flexible forms of employment, gig economy. Employer and employee - ethical relationship. Topic 12: Ethics of consumption: from hedonism to responsibility Moral responsibility of the consumer. Conscious consumer choices (eco, local, fair trade). Consumerism and emptiness - criticism from an ethical perspective. Manipulation and ethics of advertising. Greenwashing practices and false ethics of companies. V. ETHICS IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY Topic 13: Ethics in the Global Economy Globalization and shifting responsibilities. Ethics of supply chains - cheap labor, human rights. Multinational corporations versus local communities. Moral responsibility of states and consumers of the global North. International trade ethics and global justice. Topic 14: Ethics in the virtual world New technologies and the ethics of economics. Impact of technology on economic and ethical decisions. Digitization, algorithms, AI - do they have morals? Transparency of data and responsibility of system developers. The right to disconnect. Topic 15: The future of the relationship between ethics and economics - the limits and paradoxes of the economics of ethics The economics of ethics - does ethics have to pay? Instrumentalization of morality vs autotelic ethics. Summary of the course. Any doubts related to the lecture topics and questions regarding the course material are addressed during consultation hours. Participation in consultations enables the clarification of substantive issues and deepens the understanding of subject-related concepts.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Interest and desire to learn more about ethics and its multifaceted impact on the nature of economic relations.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Essay	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Bogle J.C., <i>Dość. Prawdziwe miary bogactwa, biznesu i życia</i>, Polskie Towarzystwo Ekonomiczne, Warszawa 2009. Gasparski W., <i>Wykłady z etyki biznesu. Nowa edycja uzupełniona</i>, Wyd. WSPiZ im. L. Koźmińskiego, Warszawa 2007. Hausner J., <i>Spółeczna czasoprzestrzeń gospodarowania. W kierunku ekonomii wartości</i>, Wyd. Nieoczywiste, Warszawa 2019. Rybak M., <i>Etyka menedżera społeczna odpowiedzialność przedsiębiorstwa</i>, WN PWN, Warszawa 2004. Sternberg E., <i>Czysty biznes. Etyka biznesu w działaniu</i>, WN PWN, Warszawa 1998.
	Supplementary literature	Alas R., <i>Ethics in countries with different cultural dimensions</i>, Journal of Business Ethics" 2006, Vol. 69, No. 3, pp. 237-247. <i>Etyka i ekonomia. W stronę nowego paradygmatu</i>, red. E. Mączyńska i J. Sójka, Polskie Towarzystwo Ekonomiczne, Warszawa 2017. Fryca J., <i>Zachowania organizacyjne przedsiębiorstw na rynku pracy w obliczu wyzwań społecznej odpowiedzialności biznesu</i>, Zeszyty Naukowe UG, Studia i Materiały ITiHM nr 9, red. H. Klimek i D. Wach, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk 2012, s. 137-150. Harari Y.N., <i>Nexus. Krótka historia informacji. Od epoki kamienia do sztucznej inteligencji</i>, Wydawnictwo Literacjie, Warszawa 2024. Hausman D.M., McPherson M.S., Satz D., <i>Etyka ekonomii. Analiza ekonomiczna, filozofia moralności i polityka publiczna</i>, Copernicus Center Press, Kraków 2019. Treviño L.K., Brown M.E., Wall S.J., <i>Managing to be ethical: Debunking five business ethics myths</i>, The Academy of Management Executive" 2004, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 69-83.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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