COURSE OBJECTIVES: To study the influences and interactions that society, governments, and personal values have on the daily and long-term decisions of management, and to help colleagues examine their values and personal managerial philosophy. This course is a course in critical thinking and requires each student to put up to the light old thoughts and values and to examine them with a critical eye. It requires students to be open to the thoughts and values of others, and to examine those thoughts and values without rationalization. This course involves the potential for change.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: To learn to think critically; to define problems, analyze data, and solve problems; to be a better manager and leader; to develop an ethical center for making decisions in business and life.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
* To explore and challenge your values and belief systems as to what is ethical behavior in the corporate world and to examine how the actions of corporations affect communities--local, national, and international.
* To be able to analyze different ethical and moral principles and to be able to differentiate between the best and worst ethical principles by which to guide your life and business affairs.
* To be able to understand how the mantra of "maximizing profits" leads to immoral and irresponsible corporate behavior and can harm the viability of the corporation.
* To explore and evaluate whether corporations want "followers" or "leaders" and to be able to identify limitations to the "organization ethic"--loyalty to the organization to which one belongs.
* To learn to value from a business and ethical perspective the importance of whistleblowers in our society.
* To be able to gather facts and information and to learn to think critically and without rationalization.

TEXTS: Steiner and Steiner, Business, Government and Society (McGraw-Hill, Eleventh Edition);
        John Perkins, The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man (Barrett Koehler Publishers, Inc.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and CLASS SCHEDULE: This will be a case-oriented
course. Students will be responsible for all assigned readings and case materials. For each case study, two colleagues will be assigned to prepare a presentation, which will be placed on-line, and their colleagues will be responsible for reading the presentations and answering questions about the issues presented by the case studies. In addition, each student will be required to write a major research paper (14-16 pages) to be submitted on-line the last week of classes. Themes for the papers can be taken from the themes developed in the text, or from any other issue confronting the business world, or any issue based on an ethical problem. Substantial independent research is required for the paper, which must present both sides of the issue, after which the writer presents his/her critical evaluation of the evidence researched and the writer's opinions for resolution of the problem. The papers will be evaluated on depth of research and the presentation of both sides of the issue, on the writer's critical analysis of the evidence presented and the writer's solution to the problem, on clarity of expression, and on proper form (the use of footnotes or end notes and a bibliography).

One’s grade for the course will be determined by the quality of the research paper (50% of the grade), as well as on such matters as attendance, preparation, and participation at the live class sessions; and the ability to critically analyze and thoroughly respond to the other written assignments presented on-line during the term. It is important to keep up with the assignments as the term progresses, as each assignment builds on the concepts developed in previous sessions.

The Romania section of the class will meet live in Romania for two evenings the week of January 7, 2008, and the Center Valley section of the class will meet live during the evenings of January 17 and January 24, 2008. In addition to assignments on-line, there will be four video conferences with the Romania and Center Valley students. These video conferences will be for one and one-half hours and are scheduled for February 2, February 23, March 8, and March 22, 2008.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Assignments will be covered in the order set out below;

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Chapter 10  
The Insider (film)  
FDA and Tobacco Regulation

Chapter 12 & 13  
Union Carbide  
World Trade Organization  
The Confessions of an Economic Hit Man

Chapter 9, 14 & 15  
Clear Skies Act  
Who Killed the Electric Car (film)

Chapter 18  
Plant Manager  
Racial and Sexual Discrimination and Harrasment

Chapter 17, 19  
Drug Testing and Privacy  
Cendant Shareholders Attack  
Executive Pay