Ethical Case study information:

Students enrolled in the CORE1002: Logos II must produce an ethical case study to complete the course. From the list of suggested scenarios presented below, students should choose one scenario to develop as an ethical case study. The scenario chosen should be one which raises significant ethical questions about what is right and good or constitutes an ethically problematic situation for those involved. The scenarios address a variety of ethical concerns

including professional, social, political or personal concerns.

**TASK (your case study should have four parts):**

1) Choose one of the following ethical theories, clearly explain the theory's main points, and show how the

theory is supposed to enable one to make good moral decisions.

a) Either Virtue Ethics

2) Apply the chosen ethical theory to one of the scenarios below and show what choice or course of action the theory would require and how the principles of the theory justify that choice or course of action.

3) What are 1 or 2 major strengths of the theory? What are 1 or 2 criticisms that are commonly found in the literature on this theory? Please note: when discussing strengths and criticisms of an ethical theory, you should draw on research and authoritative academic sources, not mere opinions. Do you think the theory can overcome the criticisms?

4) Explain (briefly) whether or not the chosen ethical theory will help you make ethical decisions or solve ethical problems in the future in your personal life or in the professional sphere, and why.

**Tip: the first two sections should be longer than the last two sections; it is recommended that the number of words devoted to each section roughly fall within the following ranges:**

**Section 1 – 500 – 600 words**

**Section 2 – 400 – 500 words**

**Section 3 – 200 – 250 words**

**Section 4 – 100 – 150 words**

* Your Ethical Case Study would ideally utilize four to five academic sources but it must incorporate at least three academic sources to be considered acceptable. When writing the Ethical Case Study, students must not use non- academic sources.

**Case Studies (choose one only)**

**Scenario/Case Study 1**

You are required to submit an essay for a compulsory subject in an area that is not clearly related to your degree or future career. You put off doing the research for the essay and then eventually find yourself with only a day left to write the essay. Because the essay is not in your chosen discipline you know that you don’t really understand the content and will find it quite difficult to write the essay. You know that it is possible to purchase essays online. You also know lots of other students who might lend you an old essay on the same topic. It would also be possible to just take text off the internet and rewrite them a bit – hoping that you don’t get caught for plagiarism. In this circumstance, what would your selected ethical theory suggest you should do?

**Scenario/Case Study 2**

A very old friend with whom you have been close for many years has recently started to change his/her outlook on a number of important issues on which you used to agree (e.g., abortion, same-sex marriage and euthanasia), so much so than he/she now holds views diametrically opposed to your views on matters which you believe to be of utmost ethical importance. Do you think it is possible to continue being friends with this person? If so, how and why would you continue being his/her friend. Remember to argue for your position from the standpoint of your chosen ethical theory (e.g., Virtue Ethics, Deontology, or Natural Law).

**Scenario/Case Study 3**

You are trying to save up to put a deposit down for your first home: you are working long hours and saving every cent you can. Unexpectedly, a client of your workplace approaches you directly to ask if you would do some work for him. He stresses this would just be a relationship between you and him – not involving your workplace at all. He is offering really good money – over $10,000 for a few weeks of work – and you could do it in the evenings whilst still collecting your salary from the office, but you know technically this work should go to your firm because the client only knows you through the office, but you also know it is not a lot of money for the firm, but it would make a big difference in your life. Would you accept the work? Remember to use the moral reasoning from your chosen ethical theory.

**Scenario/Case Study 4**

You work for the public service. In the course of your ordinary work, you receive an email that was not meant to be sent to you. It seems suspicious. When you read down through the history, it seems to suggest a politician is accepting bribes to give a certain business special preference when deciding to whom government contracts will be awarded. That is serious corruption! You mention it to your supervisor, but she tells you not to mention it to anybody. She says you could be fired for sharing an email that was not intended for you and that the politician could make your life hell. But you know he is doing the wrong thing – and you have a friend who is a journalist. You could leak the emails to her and she would make sure the public knew what was happening. What do you do? Remember to use the moral reasoning from your chosen ethical theory.