Engineering Ethics

Phil. Engr. 482, Spring 2001

MW, 10:20-11:10 and 1:50-2:40, Zach. 102

Faculty

Dr. Heather J. Gert, 862-2211, heather@philosophy.tamu.edu.
Office Hours: MW 3:15pm-5:00pm, Bolton 305B.

Dr. Ray James, 845-2475, r-james@tamu.edu.
Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:00am, TR 1:00-2:00pm, 140 Civil Engineering Bldg.

Dr. Reza Langari, 845-6981, rlangari@tamu.edu.
Office Hours: TR 10:00am-12:00pm, 213 Engineering/Physics Bldg.

Graduate Discussion Leaders

- James Chandler
- Dan Demetriou
- Victor Di Fate
- Jill Graper
- Kristy Kyle
- Tim McKenzie
- Matthew Mohlman
- Michael Tilley

Text and Course Notes

*Engineering Ethics:* Concepts and Cases, by Harris, Pritchard and Rabins. The references in the syllabus are to this book.

Course Notes (copies of overheads) in Spiral Form are available at Notes-N-Quotes, 701 University Drive. Supplementary Course Notes will be available at the TEES Copy Center, on the second floor of Wiesenbaker. We will try to have as many of these available ahead of time, but overheads for new lectures will be available for the day after the lecture. (These notes cannot substitute for class attendance.)
Tools for Moral Problem Solving

Jan. 17      The Citicorp Building (video)
             Course Introduction, Codes of Ethics
Jan. 19      Discussion Sections
Jan. 22      Factual & Conceptual Issues (Ch. 1&2)
Jan. 24      Conflict & Line-Drawing Problems (Ch. 3)
Jan. 26      Discussion Sections: Cases, 4, 8, 9, 47.
Jan. 29      Conflict Problems, Gilbane Gold (video)  Technical Solutions to Gilbane Gold.
Jan. 31      Utilitarianism (Ch. 4, pp. 75-84)
Feb. 2       Discussion Sections: Cases 6, 23, 29, 52
Feb. 5       Utilitarianism
Feb. 7       Respect for Persons (Ch. 4, pp. 84-95)
Feb. 9       Discussion Sections: Cases 18, 24, 34, 37
Feb. 12      Bernard Gert’s Morality
Feb. 14      Bernard Gert’s Morality
Feb. 16      Discussion Sections

Applications of Moral Tools

Feb. 19      Professionalism (Ch. 5)
Feb. 21      Honesty & Professional Liability (Ch. 6)
Feb. 23      Discussion Sections: Cases 28, 40, 42, 54
Feb. 26      MID-TERM EXAM, 7-9 PM
Feb. 28      Risk, Safety & Liability (Ch. 7)
             The Challenger Case (video)
March 2      Discussion Sections: Cases 2, 5, 50
March 5      Risk, Safety & Liability
March 7      To Engineer is Human (video)
March 9      Discussion Sections

SPRING BREAK

March 19      Professionalism, TV Tower Case (video)
March 21      Bovay Invited Lecture (Ed Turner)
March 23      Discussion Sections: Cases 1, 3, 4, 13, 43.
March 26  Engineering & the Environment (Ch. 9)
March 28  Engineering & the Environment
March 30  Discussion Sessions

April 2    Race & Gender Issues in the Workplace
April 4    International Ethics (Ch. 10)
April 6    Discussion Sections: Cases 41, 47, 57

April 9    International Ethics
April 11   Intellectual Property
April 13   Reading Day

April 16   Engineers as Employees (Ch. 8)
April 18   Engineers as Employees and Managers
April 20   Discussion Sections: Cases 15, 16, 46

April 23   Biomedical Engineering
April 25   Agricultural Engineering
April 27   Discussion Sections

April 30   Promoting and Enforcing Ethics (Ch. 11)

**Final Exams:**
Morning Lecture: May 8, Tuesday, 8-10 a.m.
Afternoon Lecture: May 8, Tuesday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

**Grading**
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 35%
Lecture Attendance: 10%
Role Playing, Homework, and In-Class Exercises: 20%
Discussion section quizzes: 10%

The final letter grade in the course will be assigned as follows:  A = 90-100%,
B = 80-89%,  C = 70-79%,  D = 60-69%, and F = below 60%.

**Attendance:** University excused absences will be recognized. Your lecture attendance grade
will be determined as follows. There will be no penalty for one absence, a penalty of 1% for two
absences, 2% for three absences, 5% for four absences, and 10% for five or more absences.

**Participation:** Quality participation in discussion sections can raise borderline grades at the end
of the semester.
Quizzes: Count on getting a quiz every discussion section. It will cover material from that week’s lectures and readings. If you miss a quiz because of a promptly reported University excused absence, it will not be counted against you.

Homework: You will be required to submit a one-page (typed, double-space) discussion or comment upon an aspect of the week’s reading for each discussion section meeting. A random selection of these comments will be graded. (This writing is very good practice for the essay section of the exams.)

Exams: The midterm and the final will focus on both lecture and textbook material. Some material from the book will not be covered in the lectures, and some material from the lectures will not be covered in the book. The format will include multiple choice and short essay questions.

Missed and Late Work will be excused only for University-recognized reasons. You must notify your instructor before the missed class. Make-up exams should be arranged with your TA. Quizzes missed because of excused absences will not be made up. They will simply not figure into your quiz average.

Cheating or plagiarism will result in failure of the course. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own ideas, words, or writings, etc. the work which belongs to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of the person.

See your TA if you have any questions about how to write a citation, or about what counts as cheating or plagiarism. Also consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section “Scholastic Dishonesty.”

Ignorance of the rules will not excuse cheating or plagiarism, so be sure that you understand what the rules are.