Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani
Hyderabad Campus

FIRST SEMESTER 2021-2022

Course Handout Part II

Date: 20.08.2021

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : **HSS F343**
Course Title : **Professional Ethics**
Instructor-in-Charge : **Dr. A. K. Jayesh**

Scope and Objective of the Course:

This course is an introduction to the field of professional ethics. It is structured around the following topics: nature and purpose of ethics, ethical theories, ethics in engineering, ethics in business and management, and global ethical issues. The course aims to inculcate in students the ability to determine the nature and merit of an ethical claim. In the process, it also introduces them to the rigors and requirements of ethical reasoning.

Textbook:

1. Peterson, Martin. 2020. *Ethics for Engineers*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Reference Books:

1. Martin, Clancy, Wayne Vaught, and Robert C. Solomon. 2017. *Ethics Across the Professions: A Reader for Professional Ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Scharding, Tobey. 2018. *This Is Business Ethics: An Introduction*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell.
3. Whitbeck, Caroline. 2011. *Ethics in Engineering Practice and Research*. 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.
4. Speight, James G. and Russell Foote. 2011. *Ethics in Science and Engineering*. Hoboken, NJ: Scrivener-Wiley.
5. Harrison, Michael R. 2005. *An Introduction to Business and Management Ethics*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1	Understand the nature and objective of the course		
2–10	Understand the nature and purpose of ethics	The nature and purpose of ethics; engineering profession; value of technology; engineering ethics and the law; ethics and morality; professional codes of ethics; NSPE code; IEEE code and ACM code; contributory reasons and moral dilemmas; proper engineering decisions vs proper management decisions; brief history of engineering.	Chapters 1, 2, and 3 (TB)
11–20	Analyze, understand, and evaluate ethical theories	Ethical theories and the methods of applied ethics; facts and values; moral claims (subjective/objective/ relative); utilitarianism and ethical egoism; the right and the good; distribution of goods; objections to utilitarianism; duties, virtues, and rights; Kant's duty ethics; the universalization test; means to an end and respect for persons; virtue ethics; objections to virtue ethics.	Chapters 4, 5, and 6 (TB)
21–30	Analyze, understand, and evaluate the key issues in engineering, management, and business ethics	Key issues in engineering, management, and business ethics; definition of whistle blowing; permissibility of whistle blowing; advice to whistle blowers; conflict of interest; avoiding conflict of interest; international engineering; value of human life; cost-benefit analysis and utilitarianism; price of environment and historic artifacts; engineering definition of risk; precautionary principle; risk and informed consent; risk aversion; privacy as a moral right; privacy as a moral value; engineers and protection of privacy; definition of responsibility; problem of many hands; moral responsibility and	Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 (TB)

		collective outcomes.	
31–40	Analyze, understand, and evaluate ethics in engineering and global ethical issues	Ethics in engineering and global ethical issues; technology assessment; new technologies as social experiments; critical attitude to technology; imperative of responsibility; critical pessimism and critical optimism; ethics of artifacts; special nature of technological artifacts; artifacts and value; artifacts as hybrid agents; technology as a mode of revelation; sustainability; notions of sustainability; instrumental value of sustainability; non-instrumental value of sustainability; imperceptible harms and the tragedy of the commons.	Chapters 13, 14, 15, and 16 (TB)

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration (Minutes)	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignments	NA	30	To be announced	Open-book
Mid-semester Examination	90	30	21/10/2021 3.30 -5.00PM	Closed-book
Comprehensive Examination	120	40	21/12 FN	Closed-book

Chamber Consultation Hour: A Google Meet link along with consultation hours will be shared on the CMS.

Notices: Notices concerning the course will be displayed on the CMS.

Make-up Policy: Make-up cases will be permitted in line with the existing institute policy.

Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy: Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

Dr. A. K. Jayesh

INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE