

UNSW Australia

ELEC4122

Term 1, 2019

Seminar Class Week 2
Decisions & Responsibility

The objective of business is to make money. An employed engineer's objective is to earn an income by satisfying an employer's expectations while also meeting personal goals.

As an engineer, you will have obligations to society, the profession, your employer, yourself, and your family & friends. These often conflict and how to balance them is a critical ethical issue. It is one reason you need to develop your *moral autonomy*.

Tutorial Question: What is Moral Autonomy?

All engineering projects proceed with some level of uncertainty. This is because there are so many influences on the future. Some of these can be controlled; some cannot. And always, whatever you do, you will depend on others for your successes.

Class-time

In this tutorial your class will debate an ethical issue involving organisations and an engineering project. You will be divided into 5 groups of 3 or 4 students. These may or may not be your final seminar presentation teams.

this week's out-of-class question

Can you assign responsibility apart from decision making? How can you be confident of the future?

THE FINE PRINT

This tutorial activity is designed to examine the ethical connection between decisions and responsibility and the unpredictability of people.

Remember that you will be marked on your contribution to class discussion.