

PHIL 3109JB: Engineering Ethics – Summer Session 2012

Instructor: Dr. Jason Borenstein
Meeting Time: MW 2:00-3:45pm
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Course Description: In this course, we will examine ethical issues relating to being a professional in a technical field. Viewpoints on a variety of subjects, including codes of ethics, obligations to the environment, moral responsibility, and risk, will be presented and evaluated.

Required Text and Readings:

- Mike Martin and Roland Schinzinger, *Ethics in Engineering* (4th edition), McGraw-Hill, 2005.
- Articles on the Internet and on reserve (<http://www.library.gatech.edu/services/reserves/index.php>, password: yvi94ubw)

Grades: The grading scale is standard (90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, lower than 60=F).

There will be two in-class exams; each exam will constitute 30% of your final grade. They will be drawn primarily from lecture notes and assigned readings. The questions will be multiple choice and true/false. The first exam is on **June 13th**. The second is on **July 30th**. Your grade will be reduced for being tardy to an exam. **You are required to bring a number two pencil to each exam.** An absence on the day of an exam may result in a zero unless permission has been granted by the instructor *prior to the date* to take a makeup exam. Electronic devices must be turned off and put completely away during an exam. Performing an unacceptable act during an exam such as talking with another student, using notes, books, or any type of electronic device is a violation of the Academic Honor Code and may result in a zero for the exam. Depending on the severity of the wrongdoing, additional penalties may be enacted by the Office of Student Integrity such as a failing grade for the assignment or course, suspension, or expulsion from school.

Each student is required to write five 1 to 2 page papers, which combined will constitute 25% of your final grade. The primary aim of each paper is to answer assigned questions relating to a reading. Assignment information will be posted on T-square approximately one week prior to each paper's due date. You must incorporate an ethical theory or concepts from the course's textbook into each paper. Each paper must be submitted on T-square by 5pm on the due date (listed below and on T-square). Late papers will not be accepted. Proper paragraph form, grammar, margins, spacing (1.5-2), type font (11-12 point, Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman), and punctuation are required. You must do your own original work. ***Do not use quotations in your papers and do not closely paraphrase other people's work; doing so will result in a zero for the assignment.*** Plagiarism and/or collaboration on papers are violations of the Academic Honor Code. Depending on the severity of the act, additional penalties may be enacted by the Office of Student Integrity such as a failing grade for the assignment or course, suspension, or expulsion from school. If you have any questions about appropriate writing practices, consult with the instructor or the TA as soon as possible. Additional paper guidelines are available on T-square.

15% of your final grade will be determined by attendance (two unexcused absences=one letter lower for this portion of your grade, three unexcused absences=lose half credit for this portion of your grade, four or more unexcused absences=zero for this portion of your grade). Being more than 5 minutes late to class will count as half of an unexcused absence (i.e., 2 tardies=one unexcused absence). Students will be expected to pick up only their own attendance card at the beginning of each class and return it at the end of each class. If a student is tardy, the student should inform the TA or instructor at the end of class so he/she is not marked as being absent. If a student has to miss a class, the student must contact the instructor *prior to the day of the absence* (unless the absence is due to illness) so that instructor can determine whether it is

consistent with Georgia Tech policy that the absence is considered excused. If an absence is considered excused by the instructor, the student must provide proper documentation within one week of returning to class (for example, a physician's note for an illness). Each student will be expected to complete assigned readings before class begins and to participate in class activities. Disruptive behavior (such as using an electronic device for non-class purposes) may result in a reduced grade.

Academic Integrity: Each student in the course is expected to uphold Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code. This requires of students that they familiarize themselves with the rights and responsibilities contained within the policy. If you have any questions or concerns involving the Academic Honor Code, consult with the instructor and refer to <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>.

Withdrawals: The last day to withdraw from the course with the possibility of receiving a "W" is **June 15th**.

* The syllabus provides a general framework for the course; on rare occasions, changes may become necessary.

** If you have any learning disabilities, contact the ADAPTS office at (404) 894-2564, refer to <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu>, and/or consult with the instructor as needed.

*** If you have any personal or academic difficulties, contact the Counseling Center at (404) 894-2575, refer to <http://www.counseling.gatech.edu>, and/or consult with the instructor as needed.

Course Schedule

| Days | Monday | Wednesday |
|--------------|---|---|
| May 14 & 16 | Introduction and EiE Textbook Chapter 1 (Ethics and Professionalism) | EiE Textbook Chapter 2 (Moral Reasoning) and Whitbeck article (on reserve) – First Paper Assignment Posted |
| May 21 & 23 | EiE Textbook Chapter 3 (Moral Frameworks) | EiE Textbook Chapter 3 (continued) – First Paper Due |
| May 28 & 30 | School Holiday | Forge article (on reserve) – Second Paper Assignment Posted |
| June 4 & 6 | Robot ethics (Internet readings) | EiE Textbook Chapter 4 (Social Experimentation) – Second Paper Due |
| June 11 & 13 | Vaughan article (on reserve) and Review for First Exam | First Exam |
| June 18 & 20 | EiE Textbook Chapter 5 (Safety) | Husak article (on reserve) – Third Paper Assignment Posted |
| June 25 & 27 | EiE Textbook Chapter 7 (Honesty) | Pool article (on reserve) – Third Paper Due |
| July 2 & 4 | EiE Textbook Chapter 10 (Tech. Progress) – Fourth Paper Assignment Posted | School Holiday |
| July 9 & 11 | Winner article (on reserve) | Woodhouse article (on reserve) – Fourth Paper Due and Fifth Paper Assignment Posted |
| July 16 & 18 | EiE Textbook Chapter 8 (Environmental Ethics) | EiE Textbook Chapter 8 continued and UCC Report – Fifth Paper Due |
| July 23 & 25 | EiE Textbook Chapter 9 (Global Issues) | EiE Textbook Chapter 9 (continued) and Review for Second Exam |
| July 30 | Second Exam 2:50-4:30pm | |