

**SE 494**

**Fall 2018**

**Portfolio Ethics Essay Assignment**

**Due date: Nov 11, 2018**

**Larisa Andrews**

While talking about the ethics of reusing the same academic project/work for credit, I think there lay two arguments. One, that reusing previous material in a different class is unethical because you should be learning in both classes. Two, since our 494 class specifically is not for credit, but a required class it may help to build our learning by editing a previous paper and using that.

So why is re-using previous material in a new class unethical? I think that it can be considered unethical, because of the context. In most cases in a class the instructor will expect all classwork to be original to the class. Whether this is explicitly stated in the syllabus or not. So, when a student re-uses work and does not consult the instructor, they are not creating original content. Which in some cases can even be considered plagiarism of yourself, which is plainly unethical.

On the other hand, in software engineering 494 specifically, the whole class is about displaying all the work you have done in college. It is also a class that has no credits but is required. So, it might seem like re-using a previous work is in line with the class expectations.

At the end of the day it matters more about what the expectations of the instructor are. To fully determine whether reusing a piece of work is ethical or not.

In software, the more code you can re-use the better but sometimes it cannot work out well. For an example, if you made a contract with a customer that promised private newly developed code. It seems highly unethical to re-use some code base. Or in a system for a plane or rocket. Re-using all the code from a different plane or rocket may be simple. Although, because every plane will fly slightly different not calibrating code to that specific plane could cause safety issues.