

COMMENT OF STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS RELEVANT TO ASPIRED PROFESSION

Q1. In your own perspective, how do you define Philosophy and Ethics?

Philosophy is interpreted to me in its literal meaning as a combination of two Latin words, *philo* and *sophia*. “*Philo*” means wisdom and “*Sophia*” means love. In both, it implies that *philosophia*, anglicised to “philosophy”, is love of wisdom. It is the undying thirst of wisdom inherent to reason. The quote of Karl Jaspers provided in Lesson 1 implies that there is infinite amount of knowledge we can gather from our surroundings, tangible or intangible and observable or unobservable. It all leads to questions that drive such undying thirst.

Ethics is the branch of philosophy that delves through thought experiments of the probity of human actions. It encompasses theories about tort or damage to another entity (a person, a natural or juridical one, or a being capable of experiencing pain and can think). It encompasses both direct and indirect actions that may or may not do damage.

Q2. What is the relevance of studying “Ethics” in your life as a future professional (e.g. CE, IT, RN, ECE, ME, CRIM, etc.)? State your particular course direction.

Ethics is relevant to Computer Engineering, as Computer Engineers need to be mindful of the potential damage they may inflict to the State, its corporations, or its environment that may indirectly affect the people through computer systems they design for corporations they are affiliated with. Ethics is a great introduction to the concept of laws and codes of professional conduct across all professions, not just Computer Engineering.

You need not to be a lawyer to interpret what things are inherently criminal in nature (*mala in se*), but understanding the effects of your actions allow you to prevent such instances from occurring. As they say, “*Ignoratio legis non excusat.*”, a legal principle that voids defences of the accused due to their ignorance of legislation and its implied penalties in malicious acts. Ignorance is not a valid excuse, but the accused should have known and prevented such act if it is inherently malefic. We, as professionals, uphold this principle—and ethics is but a stepping stone to be not ignorant of the law.