

Reusing the same academic work is very clearly unethical. This would be in direct conflict with IEEE's Code of Ethics. Using someone else's work can clearly cause conflict. When using someone else's work, there is a very real possibility of conflict. You are making it possible for the professor to be conflicted on having to make a decision for punishment. You are creating conflict for the person's work you use because they may suffer dire consequences. It is also a clear breach of honesty. Whenever you turn in an assignment, you are claiming you did it because your name is on it. Specifically, discussing the issue on reusing the same work for 2 different classes, this is also clearly unethical. One of IEEE's codes of ethics is "to improve the understanding by individuals and society of the capabilities and societal implications of conventional and emerging technologies, including intelligent systems". When creating this second assignment, we must understand that the goal is for us to become better at what we are doing. By reusing work, we learn nothing more and we do not become better engineers. Again, this is a clear breach of honesty due to the fact that you are claiming this work was solely written for the purpose of the class.

One place where reuse of code is unethical is if I made a web application and posted it to GitHub, and then someone else takes the code and host the website before I would get the chance. In this scenario, I had plans to use this application for a paid service. First, this is unethical because this person does not have permission to use my code. Just because you can find code on the internet does not mean it is yours, and you should always make sure that it is OK to use a certain software. Secondly, this person is using my work for personal gain. This person would be making money when this is not their intellectual property. If you look at it a certain way, this is basically stealing. Also, it is causing conflict between the two people that is unnecessary. There would probably be a lawsuit or something like that, and that is unethical to force someone to put so much effort into protecting something that they clearly own. In general, you should treat people the way you would like to be treated, and this is clearly making the lives of others more difficult.

In conclusion, it is often good to reuse software when it has the correct licenses for open source software. Otherwise, you should always make sure you have permission. Just using code someone else wrote can be considered stealing at is is ethically wrong. Basically, think before you use other's work.