ECE390 – Spring 2018

NOTE: This syllabus may change slightly. Ample notice will be given.

Instructor: E.G.Strangas, EB 1218, 353-3517
Email: strangas@egr.msu.edu
Office Hours: Monday, by appointment (using email)
Class meets:

Section 001: Tu 9:10 AM - 10:00 AM  1234 Engineering Building
Section 002: W 12:40 PM - 1:30 PM  202 Urban Plan & Land Arch Bldg.

Course Topics: Here are some of the topics we will cover:

1. Is there room for ethics in today’s practice of engineering? What do we understand by ethics? How do we develop ethics?
2. Ethics and other responsibilities.
5. Contemporary issues: Technology and quality of life. Artificial intelligence, big data, social media, bioethics,
6. What responsibilities do engineers have to their employer? How do they match with the responsibilities to society? Responsibilities of employer to the engineer.

Essays and grading

Essays written at home

There will be three essays to write for this class. Each will be weighted as 25% of your grade. Essays will be graded on understanding and analyzing the topic, organization, completeness and references. They have to be types and delivered both by email and on paper, on time.
References in essays must be of an archival nature. This means that journals and newspapers can be used in addition to books, even if they are available on the internet. On the other hand, somebody’s blog, or even Wikipedia articles, change often and are not acceptable. If you take language from a site that is not archival, you must still cite it and provide the reference, but must recognize that you should not be using it as an authority, and that the reader may be unable to access it.

Some of the newspaper references are available to college students. For example, the New York Times and Wall Street Journal allow unlimited access to MSU students – register with them as soon as possible. MSU’s library website has a number of books to borrow and “Science and Engineering Ethics” journal on line (as well as others).

*Essays written in class*

The essays in this class will be short, but they have to be well organized and presented. Discussions not to the point leave less space for analysis and result in a lower grade.

*Attendance*

Each absence from the class above two will result in 8% subtracted from the grade, and more than 5 absences will result in a zero grade, unless ALL absences are excused according to University policy (e.g. signed excuse from Olin Health Center). Personal absences due to family issues or holidays should be brought to the instructor’s attention as soon as the student knows. Absences due to sports, other meetings, job interviews etc. are OK, but they fall in the rule above, i.e. more than two total ones will result in grade decrease. Please see https://ombud.msu.edu/classroom-policies/index.html#attend-code

If during class you are working on something other than the class or using a cell phone, laptop, tablet etc., you will be considered absent.

If you are late for the class, you will be considered absent as well.

*Plagiarism and cooperation on assignments.*

Neither is acceptable.

You MUST CITE in the body of your essay the source you are using, at the place—for example, in the paragraph—where you use information from that source, otherwise it will be considered plagiarism. The references at the end may be numbered in order of use or sorted alphabetically. Appropriate citations are then numbers in brackets [1] or superscripts¹ for numbered references. See any of the style guides (for example, Strunk and White) if you need more guidance.

Fortunately, there is software that will find commonalities of any given paper with many sources and other papers. **WE USE THESE PROGRAMS.** Any plagiarism incident will bring the heaviest possible repercussions (a grade of 0 for the assignment, at the least). Note that you can, and SHOULD, use work and texts of others; you just have to either 1) rephrase them in your own words, citing the reference as the source of the ideas, or 2) put them in quotes and cite the reference; see above.
You may collaborate with classmates by discussing or finding sources, but not on writing your essays. Similar essays will not receive a passing grade.

**Grading**

**Essays 3 x 25%, class essays, 25% total.** I expect a typical grade of around 2.5 and that the top 30% will get 3.5 or 4 for total points of 83% and 90% or above. Total points of 50% or less will result in a 0.0 Grade.

**References**

Beyond the newspapers and journals discussed above, a number of books are available.

**Main reference book:**

*Ethics in Engineering / Mike W. Martin, Roland Schinzinger. Publisher McGraw-Hill.* Any edition will do, and you can buy it on-line quite cheaply.

Additionally there are many on-line books in the library and:

2. S.F. Johnston, J.P. Gostelow and W.J King, Engineering and Society, Prentice Hall,
3. C.B. Fleddermann, Engineering Ethics, Prentice Hall,

I suggest you buy and read carefully a small book that answers many questions that arise during writing of reports, essays, etc.:


It will help greatly with your essays.

*IF you are not a native speaker of English, or if you ARE but you have difficulty in organizing your writing, you should prepare each essay as follows:*

1) Make an appointment in advance with the Writing [http://writing.msu.edu/](http://writing.msu.edu/) AS SOON as the assignment is made, for about 3-7 days before the assignment is due.
2) Do your research and find material you will use for formulating your arguments.
3) Write your first draft, and take it with you to the Writing Center for your appointment.
4) Follow the recommendation of the Writing Center staff and rewrite your essay in preparation for the due date.

Do NOT wait until a few days before the assignment is due, or the Writing Center will likely not be able to see you. That is not an excuse for turning in your paper late, as you have been forewarned!

**Limits to confidentiality.** Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record
policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the MSU Police Department) if you share it with me:

-- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,

-- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and

-- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center.

Schedule of Assignments (all are due on paper in class at the scheduled class time)

Week of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 January</td>
<td>First paper assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 February</td>
<td>First paper due in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>First paper returned, graded</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 February</td>
<td>First paper rewrite due (if applicable)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Second paper due (if applicable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Second paper due in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>Third paper due in class</td>
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Final exam dates: (content and format will be discussed in class)

Section 1: Tuesday, Apr 30 2019 3:00pm - 5:00pm in 1234 Engineering Building
Section 2: Monday, Apr 29 2019 8:00pm - 10:00pm in 202 Urban Plan & Land Arch Bldg.