



E&S 4600: Ethics and Professional Responsibility
Spring 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 17:00 - 18:15
Thornton D223

“Relativity applies to physics, not ethics” — *Albert Einstein*

“Even the most rational approach to ethics is defenseless if there isn’t the will to do what is right”
— *Alexander Solzhenitsyn*

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 - 13:30 and 15:30 - 16:30

Textbook:

1. Fleddermann, C., *Engineering Ethics*, 4th edition, Prentice Hall, 2011.
2. Thiroux, J., and Keith Krasemann, *Ethics: Theory and Practice*, 11th Edition, Pearson, 2012.

Course Description and Objectives:

By the end of E&S 4600, students should have an understanding of the foundations of ethics including practical cases, an understanding of engineering ethics and how it relates to and is different from traditional ethics, and finally, an understanding of the professional responsibilities of engineers.

In addition, students should have completed a service requirement, discussed the purpose of serving communities, and have a better grasp of the best and worst practices of community service and service learning.

Finally, students will have completed all major requirements for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences thesis requirements.

Prerequisites

E&S 4500 is required to enroll in E&S 4600

Grading:

This is a seminar course. Therefore, class participation is very important. Please come to class prepared to critically address the materials assigned. If you do not come prepared, it will be obvious to both the professor and your peers and you will fail to make the most of this opportunity. Since this is a summer course, the readings have been reduced. You will be assigned roughly 60 pages per night, sometimes more, sometimes less. You do not have to read every page, the point is get the general ideas.

NB! Note that this is just an outline of the requirements. For a complete list and more detailed description of the thesis components, please see the Universal Thesis Syllabus and Writing Guide.

Your grade will be based on the following:

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|---|-----|
| E&S Thesis Portfolio | 50% |
| — Progress Report | |
| — Socio Technical Synthesis | |
| — Final Paper | |
| Ethics and Service Components | 30% |
| — Service (10%) — As part of this course, students are required to complete ten hours of service. Group service is preferable. The students shall determine the type of service. However, Madison House is a good place to start. The key to service and service learning is that students do absolutely not harm in fulfilling their service. Therefore, their requirement needs to be approved before students begin. | |
| —Paper (10%) — A final paper of roughly seven double spaced pages is due on the 30th of April. This paper will address the ethical and professional responsibility theories and practices that students have learned throughout the semester. | |
| — Presentation (10%) — As part of your Ethics and Service requirements, group members must present their service components to the class and discuss how their service relates to the class, what theyve learned while doing their service, and best and worst practices of their experience. | |
| — Participation and Attendance | 20% |
| a. Attendance (10%) is required. Each student is given one free absence. Any absences after two will result in a harsh penalty to your participation grade (half a letter grade on participation per absence). | |
| b. In order to receive a good grade on participation (10%), students are expected to participate in each discussion. | |

Academic Honesty:

Students must sign the Honor Pledge on each assignment. Cheating of any kind will be punished according to the dictates of the Honor Code of the University of Virginia.

Course Outline:

Tuesday

15 January - Introduction to the Course

(Introductions and Expectations)

22 January - Thiroux, chapter 2

(Teleological Theories of Morality)

29 January - Writing Workshop

(Small Group - Blind Peer Review)

5 February - Thiroux, chapter 4

(Virtue ethics)

12 February - Thiroux, chapter 6

(Freedom versus Determinism)

19 February - Lucerna, et al., chapter 4 and 5

(Engineering / Community Development)

26 February - Thiroux, chapter 10

(Lying, cheating, stealing)

5 March - Thiroux, chapter 15

(Business and Media Ethics)

12 March - Spring Break

(rest)

2 April - Film

(TBD)

9 April - Portfolios are due

16 April - Fleddermann, chapter 7

23 April - Presentation of Service Projects

30 April - Ethics Paper due

Thursday

17 January - Thiroux, chapter 1

(The nature of morality)

24 January - Thiroux chapter 3

(Deontological Theories of Morality)

31 January - Progress Reports Due + Elevator Speeches

(1 minute, no notecards)

7 February - Thiroux, chapter 5

(Absolutism versus Relativism)

14 February - Thiroux, chapter 8

(Creating Moral Systems)

21 February - Sichel, "Can Tourism and Altruism Mix

(Altruism?)

28 February - Thiroux, chapter 14

(Bioethics)

7 March Thiroux, chapter 16

(Environmental Ethics)

14 March - Spring Break

(start studying again)

4 April - Writing Workshop

(Small Group - Blind Peer Review)

11 April - Fleddermann, chapter 6

18 April - Fleddermann, chapter 8

25 April - Presentations Continued

10 May - Bound portfolios due