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Fall 2015

PHIL 2244

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University of New Orleans

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Syllabus
University of New Orleans
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 2244: Engineering Ethics (1 credit)

SECTION 001: LA 372, F, 1:00 –1:50 p.m.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Edward Johnson
Office: Liberal Arts 395
Office Hours: 9:30 – 10:00 MWF and 3:00 – 4:30 F (and by appointment)
Office Telephone: (504) 280-7193
Email: erjohns1@uno.edu
Course Webpages: [Moodle](#) login page

Required Text

[1] Harris, Charles E., et al., *Engineering Ethics: Concepts and Cases* (Wadsworth, 2014), ISBN-13: 9781133934684

Course Description

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course will examine ethical issues arising in the professional and social-policy aspects of engineering. Coverage includes such topics as: codes of professional ethics, methods of moral problem solving, honesty, risk, responsibilities to employers and to the public, technology and the environment, and moral issues in management, research, and consulting.

COURSE OVERVIEW: We will study concepts and cases relating to ethical problems encountered in the profession of engineering, including the requirements of responsibility; the challenges of technology; the role of trust, risk, and liability; environmental impact; and the effects of globalization.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify features of practical situations relevant to moral evaluation in engineering
- Define key concepts in ethics
- Evaluate the persuasiveness of moral arguments of different types
- Apply ethical concepts studied to new kinds of cases in engineering
- Synthesize, in effective presentations, central aspects of ethical debate in this area
- Articulate the importance of the concept of “conflict of interests”
- Explain the relevance of professional standards to engineering contexts

Grades will be based on a 100 point scale distributed as follows:

Requirement		Final grade	
Participation	(10%) 10 points	A	90 – 100 points
Case Presentation	(15%) 15 points	B	80 – 81 points
Exam 1	(25%) 25 points	C	70 – 79 points
Exam 2	(25%) 25 points	D	60 – 69 points
Final Exam	(25%) 25 points	F	0 – 59 points

ASSESSMENT: You will be required to complete a Pre-instruction Assessment document at the first class, and a Post-instruction Assessment document at the last class. These will not be graded, but good-faith completion of both assessments is a requirement of the course. This is a component of our department's effort to evaluate and improve instruction by measuring learning outcomes. You will have a separate opportunity to provide an evaluation of the course.

PARTICIPATION: The class will meet on Fridays, from 1:00 to 1:50, in LA 372. The Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog states: "Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. **A student who is not present when attendance is checked in a class is considered absent.**" The Attendance Policy of the Department of English states: "When a student has missed a total of 1½ weeks of classes ... the instructor may request that the student's dean put the student on attendance probation. ... Continued absences from any ... class will subject the student to full penalties ... including failing the course...." That reasonable policy, in the case of a class meeting once a week, would allow for, say, two absences. **Each additional absence (beyond the two) will incur a four-point penalty deduction from the student's final semester average.** Attendance means attending the entire class: **attendance may be checked more than once during class.** Students who leave early without permission will be assessed ½ absence for that day. Students should be on time; those who arrive more than 20 minutes late will be assessed ½ absence for that day. Attendance at public events requires a commitment to contribute to the maintenance of public order for the sake of a shared benefit: this includes paying attention and participating appropriately.

EXAMS: There will be two in-class exams, and a final exam, in which you will respond to questions about the material covered. The format may include essay/short answer. You will be expected to demonstrate in your answers that you have thought about the issues in an informed, thoughtful, and articulate way, in language showing an appropriate mastery of college-level communication skills.

CASE PRESENTATIONS: The class will be divided into assigned groups, and each group will be responsible for a ten-minute group presentation at the end of the semester. The presentation will analyze the ethical problem in some practical case. Each group will submit a written summary, due at the time of the presentation, and will receive a group grade based on the presentation and the summary. This is a collaborative project, and the members of each group will be responsible for meeting as needed during the course of the semester.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu> [This section is quoted from mandated University language.]

ATTENDANCE: Required. See the section Participation above.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu> [This section is quoted from mandated University language.]

ELECTRONICS: Use of electronic devices is, in general, not allowed during class. You may use a laptop computer or a tablet to take notes, but not during exams (unless required for disability accommodations). Use of phones, e-mailing, texting, online surfing, etc., are not permitted during class.

LATE WORK: Late work will be accepted solely at the discretion of the instructor, and only with a sufficient, documented excuse, for a limited time (depending, of course, on the excuse).

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Make-up exams are strongly discouraged, as the absence of support staff makes scheduling flexibility difficult. Any make-up exam (if the instructor determines that it is warranted) will have to take place during the instructor's office hours.

WARNING: Learning philosophy requires the ability to examine critically, from a variety of perspectives, one's most basic assumptions about what is true and what is valuable. Critical examination involves challenging what we take for granted. Students occasionally find such an experience unsettling, as it may instill doubt about matters thought to be secure, or may require a serious engagement with ideas, language, or viewpoints the student finds threatening, or offensive, or absurd. This is especially possible in connection with controversial topics in ethics, politics, and religion. We will deal with any controversial matters in an explicit, candid, and analytical fashion. Your continued enrollment in this course constitutes acceptance of the right of other students, and the right of the professor, to explore relevant ideas, language, and viewpoints in a frank and open manner. If you object to that – if you think rational adults should be prevented from discussing certain subjects, or speaking certain words, or viewing certain images – then this is not the course for you.

PHIL 2201 Timeline (*subject to revision*)

DAY	TOPIC/READING
Aug 21	Introduction, pre-instruction assessment, and group assignment
Aug 28	Engineering ethics (Harris, Ch. 1)
Sep 4	Tools of Ethics (Harris, Ch. 2)
Sep 11	Responsibility (Harris, Ch. 3)
Sep 18	First Exam
Sep 25	Technology (Harris, Ch. 4)
Oct 2	Reliability (Harris, Ch. 5)
Oct 9	Risk and Liability (Harris, Ch. 6) [Final Drop Date: October ??]
Oct 16	No class: Fall break
Oct 23	Second Exam
Oct 30	Organizations and Environment (Harris, Chs. 7 & 8)
Nov 6	Globalization (Harris, Ch. 9)
Nov 13	Case presentations
Nov 20	Case presentations
Nov 27	No class: Thanksgiving vacation
Dec 4	Case presentations, post-instruction assessment, and course evaluation)
Dec 11	Final Exam (12:30 – 2:30 p.m.)

Syllabus Acknowledgement

PHIL 2244-001, Fall 2015

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the syllabus for this course, and I understand that it is my obligation as a student to read it, familiarize myself with its contents, and inquire in a timely way about any points on which I have questions.

I acknowledge, in particular, that it is my responsibility to be aware of the timeline of course activities (reading assignments, exam dates, paper deadlines, etc.) and am aware that nonperformance or tardy performance will affect my final course grade adversely.

I acknowledge also that failure to comply with course and university policies and requirements regarding academic integrity will expose me to serious academic sanctions.

Finally, I acknowledge that the instructor and the institution reserve the right to make reasonable changes during the semester, as circumstances warrant.

Student's name (printed): _____

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____

Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee.....08/18/2015
Semester Classes Begin08/19/2015
Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,
or withdraw with 100% refund.....08/25/2015
Last day to apply for December commencement
.....09/25/2015
Final day to drop a course or resign 10/14/2015
Mid-semester examinations 10/05-10/09/2015
Final examinations 12/07-12/11/2015
Commencement 12/18/2015
**Note: check Registrar's website for Saturday and A/B
sessions, and for items not listed here:
<http://www.registrar.uno.edu>*

Fall Semester Holidays

Labor Day09/07/2015
Mid-semester break 10/15-10/16/2015
Thanksgiving 11/26-11/27/2015

Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Please consult The Bulletin for charges associated with dropping and adding courses.

Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

Repeat Policy

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

Graduate Policies

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook: <http://www.uno.edu/grad/documents/GraduateStudentHandbook2014.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty Policy

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

Safety Awareness Facts and Education

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

Emergency Procedures

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

Diversity at UNO

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

Learning and Support Services

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center in LA 334, or learn more at <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>