

Instructor

Professor Philip Hillmer, Office: 461 Engineering Library
E-mail: hillmer@illinois.edu., Office Telephone: 217.333.2505

Course Home Page

<http://courses.ece.uiuc.edu/ece316>

The home page has links to resources in engineering ethics on the Web.

Classes

Section E2: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00–10:20 a.m., Room 170 Everitt Laboratory
Section E3: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00–12:20 p.m., Room 329 Gregory Hall

Prerequisites

Junior standing and Rhetoric 105

Credit

3 hours. ECE/Philosophy 316, “Engineering Ethics,” satisfies University General Education requirements for Advanced Composition (formerly Composition II) and Humanities and the Arts (Historical and Philosophical Perspectives).

Course Objectives

- To read and think critically
- To develop moral reasoning skills
- To improve writing skills in an engineering context
- To understand multiple perspectives and to respect others of diverse persuasions
- To study the fundamental structure of human personhood, the grounding of moral action, and the development of moral character as the precondition of integral performance in a profession

Required Texts

- Charles E. Harris, Michael S. Pritchard, and Michael J. Rabins, *Engineering Ethics: Concepts and Cases*, 4th ed. (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2009)
- Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 7th ed., Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, and the University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007)

- Additional required course materials for all members of ECE/Philosophy 316 will be available through the IEEE Office located in room 243 on the second floor of Everitt Laboratory. These materials form an integrated set in three volumes: *Introduction, Normative Ethical Theories, Additional Readings*.

Important Reference Works

A good dictionary, a thesaurus, and a grammar are highly recommended reference works that will assist you greatly in your use of the English Language. *Webster's Dictionary* in an unabridged form is an excellent reference work that provides clear definitions and an etymological history of each word. The *Oxford English Dictionary* can be viewed online through the University Library home page (www.library.uiuc.edu) under *Research Tools, Online Research Resources*. From this site, you can also consult the *Oxford American Thesaurus of Current English*. For a comprehensive English grammar, see Sidney Greenbaum, *Oxford English Grammar* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996).

Other Sources

Other recommended works are *A Writer's Reference*, sixth edition (2007), by Diana Hacker, for those who need to review the fundamental principles of writing; *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*, 9th edition (2007), by Joseph Williams, for those who want to explore further one of the best current texts in English composition; and the *Elements of Style* ([1935], 1959, 1972, 1979, 2000), by Strunk and White, for those who would like a simple, classic statement of the basic principles of English Composition.

Reflection Papers and Assigned Readings

Daily reflection papers constitute an important component of your work during the semester. Each reflection paper is to be a *typed, double-spaced, one-page reflection* upon the assigned readings for the day. These papers will crystallize your understanding of the readings and will prepare us all for our discussion together in class; they will also help you learn the art of clear and concise writing, a critical skill which is developed through consistent and regular practice. Reflection papers will be *due for each class period, except* for the three days on which *the drafts* of your *response papers* are due and for the day on which you submit the *complete draft* of your *research paper*. Type your *name and the submission date* on a *single line* as the header of your paper; begin the body of the paper on the next line, using twelve-point font and one-inch margins. Your papers will be checked daily, but not graded. View your reflection papers as a progressive series of cumulative home-work assignments.

You are responsible for all of the assigned readings — and on the daily attendance sheet, you will indicate the amount of the readings that you have completed — but use your reflection papers to focus your attention on a portion of the readings that was particularly significant to you. Briefly summarize the substance of *the author's position* and then reflect upon the meaning and significance of the reading, developing *your own position* with well-reasoned argumentation in dialogue with the author. The reflection papers, together with your completion of the assigned readings for each class period, will count toward a significant portion of your final course grade.

Personal Mission Statement

You will begin the semester by writing a substantive two-page paper in which you outline your own mission statement. The draft will be due on September 9 and the final version, along with a retrospective critical reflection, on December 4.

Response Papers

During the course of the semester, you will also write three Response Papers, each consisting of a complete draft and a final version. The draft will receive substantive comments, but only the final version will be graded. In order to receive full credit, the draft must be submitted along with the final version. A grading rubric will accompany each assignment.

All Response Papers must be double-spaced, in 12-point type, with one-inch margins. Your name and the submission date should appear on a separate title page. Papers are due at the beginning of class. All papers must be submitted on paper (hard-copy). Electronic submissions will not be accepted for credit, unless approved by the instructor. If you request a late submission for full credit, you must include appropriate written documentation.

Due Dates for Response Papers:

Response Paper #1: *Article Analysis* (3 pages)

A complete draft is due September 11; the final version is due September 25.

Response Paper #2: *Case Study* (3 pages)

A complete draft is due September 18; the final version is due October 2.

Response Paper #3: *Normative Ethical Theories* (5 pages)

A complete draft is due October 21; the final version is due October 30.

Research Paper

As the final writing component of the course, you will complete a substantive research paper of twelve pages or more in length. You will carefully explore in your paper the ethical implications of a topic of your choice using the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation format (see *A Manual for Writers*, and also the *Manual* Web site at www.chicagomanualofstyle.org).

At the end of the semester, you will also give a ten-minute presentation of your research project in class. Due dates for each step of the research project are indicated below. The research paper and in-class presentation will function together as the final examination.

Due Dates for Research Paper:

Research Topic	October 9
Research Paper Bibliography	October 16
Plan and Outline	October 23

Complete Draft	November 6
Final Version	November 20
Project Presentations	November 20, December 2, 4, 9 and December 16 [E2] or December 17 [E3]

Class Participation

Daily attendance is required and will be recorded each day. Your attendance and participation in class will be a significant factor in determining your final grade. The synergy of the course hinges upon your active engagement with your colleagues in exploring the fundamental ideas that we will be studying throughout the semester.

Classroom Guidelines

- Class will start promptly at the beginning of the hour. In order to maximize out time together, make every effort to be in the classroom — ready to work — at least three to five minutes before the class period begins.
- All personal electronic devices are to be turned off before the beginning of class.
- Refrain from eating and from reading non-related course materials during class.
- In order to facilitate our discussion and analysis of the required readings, and when necessary to do careful textual exegesis, remember to bring with you to class each day the printed texts of the assigned readings.
- As class begins, have ready at hand the required writing assignments for the day.

Academic Integrity

See http://www2.uiuc.edu/admin_manual/code/rule_33.html. Violations of the standards of academic integrity will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

Course Grading: Plus and Minus Scale

95% A	
90% A–	Attendance and Class Participation 10%
85% B+	Reflection Papers and Assigned Readings 25%
80% B	Response Papers 30%
75% B–	Mission Statement 5%
70% C+	Research Paper 25%
65% C	Research Project Presentation 5%
60% C–	