

Fall 2020

## PHIL 334-101: Engineering Ethics

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## PHIL 344: ENGINEERING ETHICS

Instructor: Dr. Chloé Cooper Jones

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**Course Description:** In this course, we'll examine the ethical dimensions of professional engineering. What ethical challenges might engineers face as professional members of society? What considerations should inform the choices engineers make? What obligations constrain these choices? How do engineering projects reflect the values and prejudices of the broader communities in which they develop? This course will introduce several conceptual resources for thinking through the ethical challenges engineers face. Special emphasis is given to issues of integrity, automation, and whistleblowing. We'll apply these concepts to a variety of real world cases in order to understand how ethical conflicts arise, how they might be resolved, and how to understand our role as professionals in the process.

### **Required text:**

All texts will be provided for you online in our course module.

### **Assignments and Grading**

All lessons, assignments, and grading will take place online. You are required to read through the lecture and reading material. Most weeks will require you to take a reading quiz. All questions on quizzes are derived from reading assignments.

### **Grading scale:**

A---90-100

B+---86-89

B----80-85

C+---76-79

C-----70-75

D-----60-69

F-----59 and below

### **Important course notes:**

- Many quiz questions are multiple choice. There is only ever ONE correct answer for the multiple choice. Sometimes that correct answer might be "all of the above." Read each answer very carefully and then select the SINGLE best answer to the quiz. If you mark more than one answer, the response will be marked incorrect.
- You will complete two short essay assignments which will be written in response to case studies. These essay assignments have fixed due dates. These due dates are not flexible. They are provided for you at the start of the course so please plan accordingly. Essay assignments turned in past due date will not be accepted.
- The due date for your final assignment is the last day I'll accept ANY work. Please mark that date in your calendar early and plan to have all work completed.

- You can track your grades online in our course module. Your quizzes are graded automatically. Your case study essay grades will be returned to you within two weeks of the submission deadline. I have many students, so please allow me the full two weeks.

### **Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated. Copying and pasting from the web (including your own replies) is one form of plagiarism. Failing to provide adequate citations is also a form of plagiarism. Any work you use should be given adequate citation. If you use any resource in your research, (including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and translation tools!) even if you don't quote it directly, provide a citation. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be given zero credit for the assignment and reported to the Dean as a violation of the Student Code of Academic Integrity, which carries a maximum penalty of expulsion.

### **Grading Policy**

This is an ethics class, and your writing assignments will often be expressions of your own thoughts and beliefs on ethical issues. So I want to be clear that your grade will not depend on whether anyone (including me!) agrees with your views. You are encouraged to think independently and to bring your own values and interests to our discussions. If you disagree with the views being presented or discussed in lecture and readings, you are encouraged to (respectfully) say why. Stating your views openly will not affect your grade. I don't claim to be free of bias, but the grading rubric for this course is not designed to reward you for agreeing with my values. Many students at NJIT struggle with abstract writing assignments, and many students do not

### **Weekly Assignment Schedule**

Assignments due on the last day of the week. As is scheduled on Moodle. Details about specific reading assignments and lessons all found on our weekly schedule on Moodle.

### **Late Work**

Work is due within the week it is assigned. Because this is an online class, please know that I'm a bit flexible as to when quizzes are taken. There is a one-week grace period for quizzes. Quizzes turned in past the one-week grace period may lose points for lateness. Case study assignments have fixed and inflexible deadlines.

### **Contact**

Please email me with any questions or concerns you might have! I am also happy to review early drafts of essays or talk over any confusing concepts. I am here to help you succeed in this course.