

Environmental Engineering Ethics Seminar

ENV 3930 Class numbers

Class Periods: See course schedule for your section

Location: See course schedule for your section

Academic Term: Spring 2022

Instructor:

Elliot P. Douglas

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352-846-2836

Office Hours: TBD

Undergraduate Teaching Scholar:

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Course Description

Intended for undergraduates majoring in environmental engineering. Lectures and discussion on ethics topics in environmental engineering sciences. (H) 1 credit hour. General Education – Humanities

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

None

Course Objectives

In this class we will address the following objectives:

- Identify ethical issues
- Describe different ethical decision-making approaches
- Analyze engineering ethics cases
- Apply different ethical decision-making approaches to engineering ethics cases
- Recognize the ethical responsibilities of engineers
- Evaluate the broader societal and environmental impacts of engineering
- Develop and defend positions about issues in engineering ethics

Materials and Supply Fees

None

Professional Component (ABET):

This is a 1 credit course. It provides 1 credit towards general education.

Relation to Program Outcomes (ABET):

Outcome	Coverage*
1. Solve problems	
2. Design	
3. Communication	Medium
4. Make judgments	High
5. Teamwork	
6. Conduct experiments	
7. Acquire knowledge	Medium

*Coverage is given as high, medium, or low. An empty box indicates that this outcome is not part of the course.

Required Textbooks and Software

None. Readings will be provided through the Canvas website.

Recommended Materials

None

Course Schedule

Week 1:	Course Overview; What is ethics?
Week 2:	No Class: MLK Day
Week 3:	Expertise and constructing arguments
Week 4:	Moral theories
Week 5:	Codes of ethics
Week 6:	Social justice
Week 7:	Euthypro
Week 8:	Thinking like a mountain
Week 9:	No class – spring break
Week 10:	Habit, habitats, and inhabitants
Week 11:	Environmental justice
Week 12:	Consumption and the environment
Week 13:	Listening
Week 14:	Voices from Flint
Week 15:	Community knowledge
Final exam:	Voices from the UF community

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

This class is primarily discussion-based and therefore attendance is expected. Your level of participation in the class discussions will count towards your grade. Absences will be excused consistent with university policies in the Undergraduate Catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation. Assignments will be accepted late only in accordance with university policies.

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Blog Entries	2 each	50%
Participation	10	25%
Paper	100	15%
Presentations	10	10%

Blog entries: Students will post entries on the assigned readings for each class, unless otherwise noted. Presume, in other words, that I want you to write for each class. Entries should generally consist in your own reflections on the assigned readings: What is this person saying? What is their argument? What is at stake in their argument? What is the conclusion of the argument? What premises are used to support that conclusion? Whom/what are they arguing against? How does their position relate to what others have said? Do I agree or disagree with their point? Why? You may also have specific questions to answer. Blog posts will be graded as: 2 points if it is clear you have engaged with the reading and responded thoughtfully; 1 point if you have responded in a superficial way; 0 points if you do not submit a blog entry. Your lowest two blog post grades will be dropped from your final grade, which means you can skip up to two blog posts during the semester.

Class participation: Another good way to begin to understand the readings is to discuss them, both inside and outside of class. I have chosen readings that are likely to provoke thought and discussion. For this reason, I *expect* regular attendance in class and participation in the online discussions. I also *expect* everyone to show respect for the opinions of others. I *encourage* you, however, to find respectful ways to disagree. The point of the class is not to reach a consensus, but rather to provoke thinking. I *encourage* you to participate actively in discussion.

Paper: You will be write a paper on the ethical issues associated with an environmental topic of your choice. Details of the assignment will be provided on Canvas.

Presentation: You will be given an assignment to speak to a member of the UF community in groups. During the final exam period you will make a joint presentation in class on this experience. Details of the assignment will be provided on Canvas.

Grading Policy

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
90.0 - 92.9	A-	3.67
87.0 - 89.9	B+	3.33
84.0 - 86.9	B	3.00
81.0 - 83.9	B-	2.67
78.0 - 80.9	C+	2.33
75.0 - 77.9	C	2.00
72.0 - 74.9	C-	1.67
69.0 - 71.9	D+	1.33
66.0 - 68.9	D	1.00
63.0 - 65.9	D-	0.67
0 - 62.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Expectations for Honesty

Cheating is a very serious offense and will not be tolerated. All instances of cheating, no matter how minor it may seem to you, will be reported to the Dean of Students Office and prosecuted. The penalty for any instance of cheating is a grade of E for the semester. Actions that are considered cheating include, but are not limited to:

- Copying of homework solutions from another source or another student. Students are encouraged to work together to solve the homework, and thus it is expected that in some cases the homework solutions of two students will be the same. However, blatant copying can be identified and will be considered cheating.
- Copying from another student during an exam, or using disallowed resources (including programming information into a calculator) during an exam. Calculators will be spot-checked during exams.
- Plagiarism on written reports. Plagiarism is the practice of copying the text or ideas from other sources and presenting it as your own. A good explanation of plagiarism is available at <https://tomprof.stanford.edu/posting/1178>.
- Attempting to change answers or marked grades on homework assignments or exams after they have been graded and returned.
- Any other action which is an attempt to modify your grade for an assignment in a way that does not actually reflect your work or abilities.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the

evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering values broad diversity within our community and is committed to individual and group empowerment, inclusion, and the elimination of discrimination. It is expected that every person in this class will treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

If you feel like your performance in class is being impacted by discrimination or harassment of any kind, please contact your instructor or any of the following:

- Your academic advisor or Graduate Program Coordinator
- Jennifer Nappo, Director of Human Resources, 352-392-0904, jpennacc@ufl.edu
- Curtis Taylor, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 352-392-2177, taylor@eng.ufl.edu
- Toshikazu Nishida, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, 352-392-0943, nishida@eng.ufl.edu

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as

appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <https://registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, or Violence

If you or a friend has been subjected to sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or violence contact the **Office of Title IX Compliance**, located at Yon Hall Room 427, 1908 Stadium Road, (352) 273-1094, title-ix@ufl.edu

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

COVID-19

- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus.
- If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect, you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
- Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling; <https://career.ufl.edu>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>; <https://care.dso.ufl.edu>.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.