

Course: CE 790 Engineering Ethics Case Studies

Instructor: Steve Starrett, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE

This course is totally dedicated to students learning about engineering ethics, professional responsibility, and scientific integrity through the study of real dilemmas that have occurred. Some of the cases are highly publicized and others are from individuals that I have met or know. Each case is a unique and difficult situation that I expect you to use about 8 hours to investigate all aspects to the situation, the different perspectives of the parties involved, and determine what you would recommend to the various scientists or engineers.

Assignments: an investigation of 3 different approaches to ethical decision making, and, select 12 of the 15 cases to study, about 6-10 hrs of work needed per case, submit a detailed report for each. Turn in your 1st report within 10 days of the start of the semester so that I can give you feedback on your format, if you are addressing all the areas I am seeking, your organization of the report, etc. Otherwise, turn in the reports as you get them completed. I understand the challenges of working and pursuing graduate education. So, I know some students will consistently submit a report about every 3 days, others will turn in groups of 2 or 3, and others will turn in groups of 5 or 6. All methods are ok as long as all are completed by the end of the semester and the first one is submitted soon so you know you understand you are on the right track.

Rubric: 12 steps, value for completeness/quality of each step, I will not be “judging” your ethical solution, however I will be evaluating the process you used to determine the solutions, how complete your observations/arguments are, and your overall effort and level of critical thinking used to study the case.