

CVLE-452: Civil Engineering Seminar

Dr. Wael Zatar

Fall 2007

One Credit, Monday 4:00-4:50 p.m., GH5

OBJECTIVE

To continue the education of the civil engineering student in the areas of professional ethics, citizenship, and the proper role of the engineer in society.

TEXT None

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Thursday 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Other hours as posted or by appointment

CONTACT INFORMATION

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OUTCOMES

Upon successfully completing the course, students should understand their responsibility to be ethical members of society and also to understand the critical role that the engineer plays in society.

GRADING BASIS

Attendance/class participation	25%
Homework/Term paper	25%
Mid-term exam	25%
Final exam	25%

Total	100%

CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAM OUTCOMES

6. understanding of professional/ethical responsibility
- 7a. an ability to effectively communicate in oral format
- 7b. an ability to effectively communicate in written
8. a knowledge of broad education
- 9a. a recognition of the need to engage in life-long learning
- 9b. an ability to engage in life-long learning
10. a knowledge of contemporary issues
- 11 an ability to use techniques, skills, and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice.

TERM PAPER AND HOMEWORK

- Homework assignments will be regularly assigned either during the class time or by e-mail.
- Checking your e-mail is required on a daily-basis for information regarding the assignment of homework.
- Homework must be submitted before the starting time of class on the assignment date.
- Late homework is not acceptable except for unusual circumstances, e.g., an excused absence.
- You are expected to provide your homework in engineering papers - not a Xerox copy. Homework must be neat, readable, and must conform to acceptable Standards of Engineering.
- Writing assignments and Term Paper must be prepared with the available software packages, e.g., Microsoft Word or Word Perfect, Excel Spreadsheets, Power Point, etc.
- The term paper (7 – 10 pages in length) will be on the following topic: **“Eminent Domain and the Engineer's Ethical Responsibilities”**. The following can be used to stimulate, but should in no way limit, the discussion:
 - a) What is an engineer's ethical duty? To protect individual citizen's property or to promote development on that said property for the benefit of the public at large?
 - b) What ethical issues may arise if an engineer works for a developer or municipality who is attempting to obtain citizen's property?
 - c) Should Engineers Advocate Public Entities to use Eminent Domain Power for Economic Development?
 - d) Does an engineer have an ethical role in eminent domain cases?

- The following rules apply to the term paper:

The paper is to be typewritten, and the fonts are to be no larger than 12. The line spacing is to be single spaced. The paper should be properly referenced with in-text citations and a bibliography.

LETTER GRADE SCALE

90-100-----	A
80- 89 -----	B
70-79 -----	C
60-69 -----	D
0-59 -----	F

The instructor does reserve the right to slightly curve or scale the grades based on class groupings. The instructor will not discuss the grades in e-mails or phone calls.

SPEAKERS WILL BE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING TOPICS

1. West Virginia registration law
2. The role of the engineer in society
3. The role of the engineer in decision making
4. Ethics
5. Professional liability
6. The practice of civil engineering
7. The American Society of Civil Engineers
8. Sexual harassment
9. Equal opportunity/affirmative action
10. Professionalism
11. Other social issues affecting engineers

ASSESSMENT

All learning outcomes will be assessed through questions in class and the evaluation of the homework, term paper, mid-term exam, and final exam.

ENGINEERING ETHICS AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

It will be assumed that each student subscribes to a professional code of ethics that is the basis for his behavior in class. Any and every case where the professional code of ethics and academic honesty are violated will be dealt with in accordance with the student handbook and the governing provisions of Marshall University.