

# Engineering Ethics and Technological Practice: Philosophical Perspectives on Engineering

## SYLLABUS



## Course Information

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Course: Engineering Ethics and Technological Practice: Philosophical Perspectives on Engineering

Number/section: PHIL 334 – 101

Semester: Fall 2025

Time: Thursday, 6 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Location: Faculty Memorial Hall 307

Instructor: Peter Heap

Email: [peter.heap@njit.edu](mailto:peter.heap@njit.edu)

Office hours: I am available before or after class.  
If you want to set an appointment,  
please email me.

Prerequisites: HUM 102 with a grade of C or higher, and one History and Humanities GER 200 level course with a grade of C or higher.

## Learning Objectives

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At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 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
- Understand some of the major philosophical theories of engineering

## Description

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Ethics is an integral part of the practice of engineering. Many, if not all, engineering tasks have an ethical component and incorporate a philosophical outlook. To engineer without an ethical and philosophical understanding is to engineer badly.

This purpose of this class is to help students become better engineers by giving them an understanding of how ethics and philosophy are an inseparable component of engineering. To do this, we will look at ethical and philosophical theories and see how they make the problems of engineering clearer.

The course emphasizes case studies of particular examples in engineering. Rather than dictating viewpoints to students, it aims to equip them with the tools and abilities to think through engineering problems from an ethical and philosophical perspective.

## Books

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This course has a small number of required readings. These will be supplied via links, the NJIT library or directly. There are also a larger number of recommended readings. You are strongly encouraged to study these as they will improve your understanding of the material but they are not required. If you wish to follow the recommended readings then you should buy the following books:

- Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, *Ethics in Engineering*, fourth edition, McGraw-Hill, 2005. ISBN 978-0-07-283115-3.
- Langdon Winner, *The Whale and The Reactor*, University of Chicago Press, 1989. ISBN 978-0-226-90211-0. Or second edition, University of Chicago Press, 2020. ISBN 978-0-226-69254-8.

The syllabus also provides further reading for those who wish to pursue in more depth the subjects we are covering. These items are available from the NJIT library.

## Grading

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Good work for all assignments will make clear and carefully reasoned arguments drawing on the theories and principles we have studied in class. Grading will be as follows:

- Class participation: 9%
- Homeworks: 20%
- Forms of life case study: 15%
- Ethics case study: 20% + 1%
- Final exam: 35%

### **Class participation**

Discussion is an important part of improving our understanding, clarifying our ideas and discovering different points of view. It also helps develop the valuable skill of being able to explain and defend a point of view. Debate will be encouraged in this course. Class participation is divided into two parts. First, participation in general discussions is worth 7% of the final grade or 0.5% per week. Second, participation in discussion of the four groups of required readings is worth 2% or 0.5% per week. Total: 9% of grade.

### **Homework**

There are four short homeworks worth 5% of the grade each. Total: 20% of grade.

### **Forms of life essay**

To better understand the impact of technology, for this assignment you will go without a specific technology for a day. You will then report on your experience and analyze it using the perspective of forms of life. Total: 15% of grade.

### **Ethics case study**

The study will have two parts. Identification of a case and sources (1% of grade), and description and analysis using theories discussed in class (20% of grade). Total: 21% of grade.

### **Final exam**

The final exam will be made up of four short essay questions worth 3% per question, seven multiple-choice questions worth 1% each and two longer essay questions worth 8% per question. You will have a choice of questions. The exam will cover the entire semester. Total: 35% of grade.

## Grades

The maximum grade for the class is 100%. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

90 to 100:	A	70 to 74:	C
85 to 89:	B+	60 to 69:	D
80 to 84:	B	59 and less:	F
75 to 79:	C+		

## Deadlines

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Work is due on the dates shown in the class schedule. Numerical grades for late submissions will be multiplied by 0.95 for up to 48 hours late, 0.9 for up to a week late and 0.8 for up to two weeks late. No work will be accepted later than two weeks after the due date or after the start of final exams.

## Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

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Plagiarism or copying of any kind will not be tolerated. All work must be your own. Specifically, it must be your own thoughts and your own ideas expressed in your own words. Any use of others' efforts must be credited via a citation. This includes computer and artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT and Grammarly. If you use these tools you must credit their contribution via a citation and put direct quotations from these tools inside quotation marks. NJIT's policy is as follows:

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students' office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will be subject to disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu)

## Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

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This course aims to help students develop the skills of reasoning, critical thinking and expression of ideas. To promote those goals, students are not permitted to use artificial intelligence or similar computer tools for this class. This prohibition includes applications and websites that check grammar, change words to synonyms or which supply text in any other form. As stated in the section on academic integrity, all work must be your own ideas expressed in your own words.

# Class Schedule

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## **September 4: Introduction**

Plan of the course, introduction to ethical thinking

## **September 11: Individual responsibility**

### **Responsibility**

**Case study:** Citicorp tower

**Whistleblowing:** When is it permissible, when is it required, complicity

**Case studies:** C-5A, DC-10, BART

**Doing versus omitting, “If I don’t do it someone else will,” “I was only following orders”**

*Homework due September 18*

Choose one of the following cases:

### **Kermit Vandivier and the Air Force A-7D brake problem**

Air Force A-7D Brake Problem: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Economy in Government of the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, 91st Congress, Aug. 13, 1969, 1-9, 12, top paragraph on 239. [https://www.jec.senate.gov/reports/91st%20Congress/Air%20Force%20A-7D%20Brake%20Problem%20\(474\).pdf](https://www.jec.senate.gov/reports/91st%20Congress/Air%20Force%20A-7D%20Brake%20Problem%20(474).pdf)

### **David Lorge Parnas and the Strategic Defense Initiative**

David Lorge Parnas, “Software Aspects of Strategic Defense Systems,” Communications of the ACM, vol. 28, no. 12, December 1985, Introduction, “Why software is unreliable,” “Why the SDI system will be untrustworthy,” “Is SDIO an efficient way to fund worthwhile research?” 1326-1330, 1334-1335. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/214956.214961>

Background on SDI here:

“Strategic Defense Initiative,” *Wikipedia*. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic\\_Defense\\_Initiative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strategic_Defense_Initiative)

## **September 18: Professionals and organizations**

**Professionalism:** Definition, codes of ethics

**Case study:** Toyota unintended acceleration

**Professional ideals versus business demands**

**Case study:** Challenger disaster

**Corporate culture**

**Case studies:** Volkswagen

**The purpose of a corporation:** Milton Friedman and J. Edward Freeman

**Marx:** Capitalism and communism, the purpose of work

- Van Divier/Parnas homework due

*Homework due September 25*

Choose either John Mackey or T.J. Rodgers:

Milton Friedman, John Mackey, T.J. Rodgers, "Rethinking the social responsibility of business," *Reason*, October 2005. <https://reason.com/2005/10/01/rethinking-the-social-responsi-2/>

## **September 25: Ethical theories**

**Ethical theories:** Deontological ethics, utilitarianism, virtue ethics, also care ethics and other theories

**Case studies:** Northern States Power, San Diego water purification

- Mackey/Rodgers homework due

## **October 2: Wellness day – no class**

## **October 9: Engineers and the world/Two models**

**Case study:** Nokia in Russia

**Ethical relativism:** Are ethical values the same everywhere and for everyone?

### **International business**

**Case study:** Bhopal

### **Offshoring**

### **Two models of engineering**

Engineering as experimentation

**Case studies:** Comet jet aircraft, Samsung Galaxy Note 7

Engineering as pragmatic participation

**Case study:** Aluminum can

### **Pragmatism**

**Case study:** California electricity grid

### **Required reading**

Anna Shedletsky, "Aggressive Design Caused Samsung Galaxy Note 7 battery explosions," Instrumental, Inc., Dec. 1, 2016. <https://instrumental.com/resources/failure-analysis/aggressive-design-caused-samsung-galaxy-note-7-battery-explosions/>

Peter Fairley, "Building a Weather-Smart Grid," *Scientific American*, July 2018, 60-65.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325891548\\_Building\\_a\\_Weather-Smart\\_Grid](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325891548_Building_a_Weather-Smart_Grid)

*Homework due October 16:*

### **Teton Dam case study**

Philip M. Boffey, "Teton Dam Verdict: A Foul-up by the Engineers," *Science*, Vol. 195, No. 4275, Jan. 21, 1977, 270-272 (Available from NJIT library website)

These pictures show what happened:

Wikipedia, "Teton Dam," [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teton\\_Dam#Collapse\\_and\\_flood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teton_Dam#Collapse_and_flood)

## **October 16: Forms of life, political technology**

### **Forms of life**

**Case study:** Cellphones and social media

### **Political technology**

**Case study:** NC machine tools

- Teton Dam homework due

*Homework due October 23:*

**Forms of life:** The telephone

Ithiel de Sola Pool, *Forecasting the Telephone: A Retrospective Technology Assessment*, Ablex, 1983, 41-45 (Will be distributed).

## **October 23: Perceptions and relations**

**Perceptions:** How technology changes perceptions

**Case study:** Flight 965

Automation complacency, automation bias

**Case study:** Three Mile Island

**Identification and relations to technology:** Identification, Peter-Paul Verbeek, Don Ihde, Hegel

- Forms of life homework due

### **Required reading**

Federal Aviation Administration, American Airlines Flight 965 near Cali: Accident Overview.

[https://www.faa.gov/lessons\\_learned/transport\\_airplane/accidents/N651AA](https://www.faa.gov/lessons_learned/transport_airplane/accidents/N651AA)

Boston Dynamics, *Atlas, the Next Generation*, 2016. <https://youtu.be/rVlhMGQgDkY>

## **October 30: Ethical reasoning, the Ford Pinto**

**Ethical reasoning:** A five-step process

**Case study:** The Ford Pinto

### **Required reading**

Mark Dowie, "Pinto Madness," *Mother Jones*, September/October 1977.

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/1977/09/pinto-madness>

## **November 6: Utilitarianism and cost-benefit analysis**

**Utilitarianism and cost-benefit analysis:** Working for a tobacco company, criticisms and responses

**Case study:** Table saw safety

**Case study:** The benzene case

- Forms of life essay due

## **November 13: Engineering and the environment**

**Engineering and the environment:** Attitudes to nature, the Invisible Hand, the Tragedy of the Commons, externalities

**Case study:** Love Canal

**Theories, sustainable development**

**Case study:** Cultivated meat

**Heidegger**

## **November 20: Autonomous systems and artificial intelligence**

**Case study:** Tesla

**Autonomous systems and artificial intelligence:** Definitions, the Turing test, practical issues, responsibility, ethics for robots including Asimov's three laws, the trolley problem

**Technological revolutions**

**Case study:** Budweiser's self-driving truck

- Ethics case study: Identify a case

### **Required reading**

Neil Boudette, "Tesla Says Autopilot Makes Its Cars Safer. Crash Victims Say It Kills," *New York Times*, July 5, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/05/business/tesla-autopilot-lawsuits-safety.html>

Otto and Budweiser: *First Shipment by Self-Driving Truck*.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH2pQ\\_Uq77I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH2pQ_Uq77I)

## **November 25 (Tuesday): Artificial intelligence – the big picture**

**Artificial intelligence:** Jobs: four-day week and universal basic income, democracy

**Cyborgs:** Haraway

## **November 27: Thanksgiving – no class**

**Class meets on Tuesday, November 25 this week**



## **December 4: Ethics in the workplace**

**Ethics in the workplace:** Power, resolving conflict, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, affirmative action, truthfulness

- Ethics case study: Analysis due

## **December 11: Personal values**

**Weapons work:** Just war theory

**Personal values and personal fulfillment:** Ayn Rand and self-interest, Stanley Cavell and self-realization, Peter Singer and why be ethical, Susan Wolf on meaningful work

## **December 18: Final exam**

**6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

# Readings

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## September 4: Introduction

None

## September 11: Individual responsibility

### Recommended

Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, "Saving Citicorp Tower," section 1.2.1 in *Ethics in Engineering*, 12-14.

Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, "Whistleblowing," in *Ethics in Engineering*, 172-184.

### Further reading

Joe Morgerstern, "The Fifty-Nine-Story Crisis," *Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice*, January 1997, 23-29. (Available through NJIT library website)

Peter Carlson, "A. Ernest Fitzgerald," *People*, Dec. 9, 1985. <https://people.com/archive/a-ernest-fitzgerald-vol-24-no-24/>

Michael Davis, "Some Paradoxes of Whistleblowing," *Business & Professional Ethics Journal*, Spring 1996, Vol. 15, No. 1. (Available from NJIT library website.)

Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Spring 1972, vol. 1, no. 3, 229-243. (Available from NJIT library website.) <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2265052>

## September 18: Professionals and organizations

### Recommended

Cherri Pancake, "Programmers need ethics when designing the technologies that influence people's lives," *The Conversation*, Aug. 8, 2018. <https://theconversation.com/programmers-need-ethics-when-designing-the-technologies-that-influence-peoples-lives-100802>

Malcolm Gladwell, "The Engineer's Lament," *The New Yorker*, April 27, 2015. (Available from NJIT library website.) <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/05/04/the-engineers-lament> or <https://www.proquest.com/magazines/engineers-lament/docview/1680967727/se-2?accountid=35725>

Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, "Challenger," in *Ethics in Engineering*, 106-114.

Russell Hotten, "Volkswagen: The Scandal Explained," *BBC News*, Dec. 10, 2015. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-34324772>

### Further reading

Edwin Layton, *The Revolt of the Engineers*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.

Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident: Report to the President, June 6, 1986. [https://sma.nasa.gov/SignificantIncidents/assets/rogers\\_commission\\_report.pdf](https://sma.nasa.gov/SignificantIncidents/assets/rogers_commission_report.pdf)

Karl Marx, *The German Ideology*, Part I: Feuerbach. Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook.

A. Idealism and Materialism. "First Premises of Materialist Method."

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01a.htm>

Karl Marx, Economic and Political Manuscripts of 1844. "Estranged Labour."

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/labour.htm>

### **Codes of ethics**

American Institute of Chemical Engineers <https://www.aiche.org/about/governance/policies/code-ethics>

American Society of Civil Engineers <https://www.asce.org/-/media/asce-images-and-files/career-and-growth/ethics/documents/asce-code-ethics.pdf>

American Society of Mechanical Engineers <https://www.asme.org/getmedia/3e165b2b-f7e7-4106-a772-5f0586d2268e/p-15-7-ethics.pdf>

ASME criteria for interpretation

<https://www.asme.org/wwwasmeorg/media/resourcefiles/aboutasme/get%20involved/advocacy/policy-publications/criteria-for-interpretation-of-the-canonsoctober2012.pdf>

Association for Computing Machinery <https://ethics.acm.org/>

IEEE <https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/about/corporate/ieee-code-of-ethics.pdf>

National Society of Professional Engineers <https://www.nspe.org/resources/ethics/code-ethics>

## **September 25: Ethical theories**

### **Recommended**

Olive Heffernan, "Bottoms Up," *Scientific American*, July 2014, 69-75. (Available from NJIT library website via JSTOR.)

### **Further reading**

Peter Borrelli et al. *People, Power and Pollution: Environmental and Public Interest Aspects of Electric Power Plant Siting*, California Institute of Technology, Sept. 14, 2007, 36-39.  
<https://doi.org/10.7907/Z9TD9V7P>.

## **October 9: Engineers and the world/Two models**

### **Required**

Anna Shedletsky, "Aggressive Design Caused Samsung Galaxy Note 7 battery explosions," Instrumental, Inc., Dec. 1, 2016. <https://instrumental.com/resources/failure-analysis/aggressive-design-caused-samsung-galaxy-note-7-battery-explosions/>

Peter Fairley, "Building a Weather-Smart Grid," *Scientific American*, July 2018, 60-65.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325891548\\_Building\\_a\\_Weather-Smart\\_Grid](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325891548_Building_a_Weather-Smart_Grid)

### **Recommended**

Adam Satariano, Paul Mozur and Aaron Krolik, "When Nokia Pulled Out of Russia, a Vast Surveillance System Remained," *New York Times*, March 28, 2022.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/28/technology/nokia-russia-surveillance-system-sorm.html>

Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, "Multinational Corporations," in *Ethics in Engineering*, Sections 9.1.2, 9.1.3, 9.1.4 and 9.1.5, 245-252.

### **Further reading**

Gary Stix, "Bhopal: A tragedy in waiting," *IEEE Spectrum*, vol. 26, no. 6, June 1989.  
<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/29340>

Henry Petroski, *To Engineer is Human*, Vintage Books, 1992.

## **October 16: Forms of life, political technology**

### **Recommended**

Langdon Winner, "Technologies as Forms of Life," "Do Artifacts Have Politics?" in *The Whale and the Reactor*, 3-39.

Langdon Winner, "Do Artefacts have Politics?" *Daedalus*, vol. 109, no. 1, Winter 1980, 121-136. (Available from NJIT library website.) <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/20024652>

### **Further reading**

David Noble, "Social Choice in Machine Design," in *Case Studies on the Labor Process*, ed. Andrew Zimbalist, Monthly Review Press, 1979, p. 18-50.

## **October 23: Perceptions and relations**

### **Required**

Federal Aviation Administration, American Airlines Flight 965 near Cali: Accident Overview.

[https://www.faa.gov/lessons\\_learned/transport\\_airplane/accidents/N651AA](https://www.faa.gov/lessons_learned/transport_airplane/accidents/N651AA)

Boston Dynamics, *Atlas, the Next Generation*, 2016. <https://youtu.be/rVlhMGQgDkY>

### **Recommended**

John Edward Huth, "Losing Our Way in the World," *New York Times*, July 21, 2013.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/21/opinion/sunday/losing-our-way-in-the-world.html>

Nolen Gertz, *Death by Robot*, ABC, July 12, 2016. <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/death-by-robot-the-ethics-of-turning-assistive-technologies-into/10096776>

### **Further reading**

John Edward Huth, *The Lost Art of Finding Our Way*, Belknap Press, 2013.

Nicholas Carr, *The Glass Cage*, W.W. Norton & Co., 2014, 67-72.

President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island, *Report of the President's Commission on the accident at Three Mile Island. The need for change: the legacy of TMI*, 1979.

<https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/6986994>

## **October 30: Ethical reasoning, the Ford Pinto**

### **Required**

Mark Dowie, "Pinto Madness," *Mother Jones*, September/October 1977.

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/1977/09/pinto-madness>

### **Recommended**

Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, "Resolving Ethical Dilemmas" in *Ethics in Engineering*, 32-39

National Institute for Engineering Ethics, *Study Guide for Gilbane Gold*. <https://www.niee.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Gilbane-Gold-Study-Guide.pdf>

## November 6: Utilitarianism and cost-benefit analysis

### Recommended

Steven Kelman, "Cost-Benefit Analysis: An Ethical Critique," *The American*, Feb. 7, 1981.

<https://www.aei.org/articles/cost-benefit-analysis-an-ethical-critique/>

James V. DeLong, Robert M. Solow, Gerard Butters, John E. Calfee, Pauline Ippolito and Robert A. Nisbet, "Defending Cost-Benefit Analysis: Replies to Steven Kelman," *The American*, April 11, 1981. <https://www.aei.org/articles/defending-cost-benefit-analysis-replies-to-steven-kelman/>

Roger Rosenblatt, "How do Tobacco Company Executives Live with Themselves?" *The New York Times Magazine*, March 20, 1994. <https://www.nytimes.com/1994/03/20/magazine/how-do-tobacco-executives-live-with-themselves.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Smoking and Tobacco Use*, May 4, 2023.

[https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/fast\\_facts/cigarette-smoking-in-the-us.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/cigarette-smoking-in-the-us.html)

Ben Blatt, "How Much Would You Pay to Make Sure You Never Sawed Off a Finger?" *The New York Times*, March 30, 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/30/upshot/table-saws-safety-cost.html>

### Further reading

*Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO v. American Petroleum Institute*, 448 U.S. 607 (1980).

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/448/607/>

## November 13: Engineering and the environment

### Recommended

Langdon Winner, "The State of Nature Revisited" in *The Whale and the Reactor*, 121-137.

Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, "Environmental Ethics," in *Ethics in Engineering*, 219-239.

Erika Engelhaupt, "Happy Birthday, Love Canal," *Environmental Science and Technology*, vol. 42, issue 22, Nov. 15, 2008. <https://doi.org/10.1021/es802376z>

Joe Fassler, "The Revolution that Died on Its Way to Dinner," *New York Times*, Feb. 9, 2024.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/09/opinion/eat-just-upside-foods-cultivated-meat.html>

## November 20: Autonomous systems and artificial intelligence

### Required

Neil Boudette, “Tesla Says Autopilot Makes Its Cars Safer. Crash Victims Say It Kills,” *New York Times*, July 5, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/05/business/tesla-autopilot-lawsuits-safety.html>

Otto and Budweiser: *First Shipment by Self-Driving Truck*.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH2pQ\\_Uq77I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH2pQ_Uq77I)

### Recommended

Eric A. Taub, “Can Tesla’s Autopilot be Trusted? Not Always,” *New York Times*, Sept. 23, 2016.  
<http://nyti.ms/2d6WthQ>

Neil E. Boudette, “Big Carmakers Merge, Cautiously, Into the Self-Driving Lane,” *New York Times*, Sept. 1, 2016. <http://nyti.ms/2c4RwWz>

Paul Scharre, “Autonomous Weapons and Operational Risk,” *Center for a New American Security*.  
<https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/autonomous-weapons-and-operational-risk>

Christopher Salge, “Asimov’s Laws Won’t Stop Robots Harming Humans So We’ve Developed a Better Solution,” *The Conversation*, July 10, 2017. <https://theconversation.com/asimovs-laws-wont-stop-robots-harming-humans-so-weve-developed-a-better-solution-80569>

Langdon Winner, “Mythinformation,” in *The Whale and the Reactor*, 98-117 (If you are short of time: 106-115).

### Further reading

Isaac Asimov, *I, Robot* (originally Doubleday, 1950, mass market edition, Bantam 2004).

## November 25: Artificial intelligence – the big picture

### Further reading

David H. Autor, “Why Are There Still So Many Jobs? The History and Future of Workplace Automation.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 29, no. 3, Summer 2015, 3-30.  
<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.29.3.3>

Mark Muro, Jacob Whiton and Robert Maxim, *What Jobs are Affected by AI? Better-Paid, Better-Educated Workers Face the Most Exposure*, Brookings Institution, Nov. 20, 2019.  
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/what-jobs-are-affected-by-ai-better-paid-better-educated-workers-face-the-most-exposure/>

David Autor, “AI Could Actually help Rebuild the Middle Class,” *Noema*, Feb. 12, 2024.  
<https://www.noemamag.com/how-ai-could-help-rebuild-the-middle-class/>

Scott Santens, “It’s Time for Technology to Serve all Humankind with Unconditional Basic Income,” *Medium*, April 13, 2018. <https://medium.com/basic-income/its-time-for-technology-to-serve-all-humankind-with-unconditional-basic-income-e46329764d28>

Yuval Noah Harari, “Why Technology Favors Tyranny,” *The Atlantic*, October 2018.  
<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,sso&db=pwh&AN=131647760&site=ehost-live&scope=site&custid=njitinf>

## **December 4: Ethics in the workplace**

### **Recommended**

Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, "Workplace Responsibilities and Rights" and "Honesty," in *Ethics in Engineering*, sections 6.1 to 6.3, 146-172, chapter 7, 189-216.

### **Further reading**

Roger Fisher, William Ury and Bruce Patton, *Getting to Yes*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Penguin Books, 2011.

Charles Handy, "On Power and Influence," in *Understanding Organizations*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Penguin Books, 1999, 123-149.

Steven M. Cahn, "Two Concepts of Affirmative Action," *Academe*, Jan.-Feb. 1997, Vol. 83, No. 1, 14-19.  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40251557> (Available from NJIT library website.)

## **December 11: Personal values**

### **Further reading**

Mike W. Martin and Roland Schinzinger, "Weapons Development," in *Ethics in Engineering*, 266-269.

Peter Singer, "Why Act Morally?" in *Practical Ethics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 2011, 276-295.

Susan Wolf, "Meaning in Life and Why it Matters," Tanner Lectures on Human Values, Nov. 7-8, 2007.  
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