

**IE 380**  
**The Responsible Engineer**  
**Discussion Questions for**  
**Chapter 7, Honesty**

Martin, M.W. & R. Schinzinger. *Ethics in Engineering*, fourth edition. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2005.

Answer the following questions. Questions in **boldface** are required; the others are optional.

- 1. In what way does deception undermine the deceived person's autonomy? Is undermining someone's autonomy the reason you consider dishonesty wrong? Justify your answer.**
  2. Why might each of the three NSPE cases on p. 191 satisfy the principle of veracity (do they?) but not the engineer's truthfulness responsibility?
  - 3. What forms can academic dishonesty take?**
  - 4. Give an example of academic dishonesty you have witnessed or otherwise know about.**
  5. For your example for the previous question, explain why it is wrong with reference to the NSPE Code of Ethics and with respect to your own personal moral principles.
  - 6. Why do students engage in academic dishonesty?**
  7. Do you think that there is an academic dishonesty problem at OSU? Justify your answer.
  - 8. What should be done to reduce academic dishonesty?**
  9. Should engineering students be held to higher standards of academic honesty and suffer greater penalties for violations. Justify your answer.
  10. Read Discussion Question 5 on p. 195. Is cheating less blameworthy at the university in question? Explain.
  11. It is not uncommon for the authors of a report or paper to include in the authorship, one or more "courtesy" co-authors, colleagues or superiors who contributed to the work described in the document but who did not actually help write it. Under what circumstances, if any, is it right to include "courtesy" co-authors?
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12. OSU seems to be placing more and more emphasis on engineering entrepreneurship and the commercialization of engineering research findings. How might this lead to ethical problems for engineering faculty and students? What remedies might you suggest?
  - 13. What are the pros and cons of contingency fees?**
  - 14. How might you, in the future as a professional engineer, be hired as an expert witness? What are some of the ethical dangers of being an expert witness?**
  - 15. Answer question 2 on p. 215. Would your answer change if you knew that the first attorney was representing the manufacturer in a product liability lawsuit and your study for that attorney convinced you that the product was fundamentally unsafe? Explain, invoking the NSPE Code and/or your personal moral principles.**