

IE 380
The Responsible Engineer
**Class Discussion Questions for
Chapter 1, Ethics and Professionalism**

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

Answer the following questions. Questions in **boldface** are required. Others are optional, but you might be called upon in class to answer them and you might need to know the answers for an exam!

1. **Why are you taking this course?**
2. Assuming that this course is capable of producing its stated learning outcomes (see syllabus), why *should* engineering students take it? Why should a non-engineering student take it?
3. Some would say that engineering is value-neutral, others that it is value-laden. What is your opinion? Explain.
4. **What is an ethical principle (moral principle)?**
5. **What are your own personal ethical principles?**
6. How did you arrive at your personal ethical principles? To what extent do you *consciously* apply them in everyday life?
7. Explain what it means to be a morally responsible engineer.
8. **Put yourself in Mr. LeMessurier's place. Once the problem was identified, *should* you have immediately notified occupants and neighbors of the building? Why or why not?** See section 1.2.1 and Discussion Question 1 on p. 20. In answering this question, you may want to a) identify a relevant personal moral principle, b) apply the principle to this situation, then c) answer the question based on your reasoning.
9. Why do the authors of our text consider engineering a *profession*?