

IE 380  
The Responsible Engineer  
**Class Discussion Questions for  
Chapter 8, Environmental Ethics**

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. **Explain the authors' two meanings of *environmental ethics* given near the bottom of p. 220 and give an example of each.**
2. Do you believe that Adam Smith's "invisible hand" (see p. 221) provides a morally satisfactory explanation of capitalism? Explain.
3. What is meant by the "tragedy of the commons" described on p. 221? Give an example.
4. **How ought the environmental costs of gasoline be internalized? Justify your answer ethically.**
5. Why is it important that "... all engineers should reflect seriously on environmental values and how they can best integrate them into understanding and solving problems"?
6. **Discuss the definition of *sustainable development* near the bottom of p. 224 with respect to your own personal moral principles.**
7. **How might your future work as an engineering help or harm the environment? What might you do (or not do) to minimize that harm? Should you?**
8. Discuss the adequacy of each of the ethical frameworks discussed on pp. 232 – 237.
9. Are your own personal moral principles as formulated earlier this term adequate to address environmental ethics? If so, how, and if not, how would you reformulate them to be so?