



ENGINEER 4A03 FA24-25 COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Name: Ethics, Equity and Law in Engineering

Course Code: ENGINEER 4A03

Session Offered: Fall 2024

Calendar Description: General introduction to the ethical, equitable and legal aspects of engineering practice.

Topics include the engineering act and code of ethics, employment equity, legal duties and liabilities of the professional engineer, contracts, and the tort of negligence.

Instructor(s): Joab Ogato

Email: ogatoj@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours/Contact: TBA

Class Schedule Day(s): Thursday

Time: 7-10pm

Location: Virtual

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will explore a number of themes and issues related to the question:

What is a professional engineer's social responsibility?

It is hoped that each of you will be able to:

- understand the scope and breadth of your social/ethical responsibilities
- translate a general awareness of ethical responsibility into specific engineering practices
- contribute to the profession's activity in the area of technology policy formation after you graduate and become a Professional Engineer

2. COURSE SPECIFIC POLICIES

This course will be held online with synchronous and asynchronous components. Students must login to the lectures using their email addresses provided by McMaster (@mcmaster.ca). The lectures will be recorded and made available on Avenue to Learn each week.

Late submissions will not be accepted and the submitted materials will not be graded.

If a student submits an MSAF for a quiz, the marks assigned to the missed quiz will be redistributed to other elements in the quiz category; for an assignment an extension will be granted. An MSAF cannot be submitted for a group assessment component. Once you submit an MSAF, there is no need to contact me, your instructor. Consider the MSAF approved.

3. SCHEDULE

WEEK	Topics	Assignments (Due Date 1159pm)	Quiz (Due Date 6pm)
WEEK 1 9/5	Introduction; The Engineer's Concern		
WEEK 2 9/11	Technology and Society		
WEEK 3 9/19	Technology Assessment	Assignment 1 (10/2)	Quiz 1 (9/19)

WEEK 4 9/26	EDI: Guest Lecture 1	Part I: Literature Review (10/9)	Quiz 2 (9/26)
WEEK 5 10/3	EDI: Guest Lecture 2		Quiz 3 (10/3)
WEEK 6 10/10	The Corporation		Quiz 4 (10/10)
WEEK 7 10/17	READING WEEK		
WEEK 8 10/24	General Insurance Concepts: Guest Lecture 3	Assignment 2 (11/6)	Quiz 5 (10/24)
WEEK 9 10/31	Ethics and Misconduct	Part II: Case Study (11/13)	Quiz 6 (10/31)
WEEK 10 11/7	Engineers Act & PEO		Quiz 7 (11/7)
WEEK 11 11/14	Engineering Law Intro & Tort Law	Assignment 3 (11/27)	Quiz 8 (11/14)
WEEK 12 11/21	Patents & IP: Guest Lecture 4	Part III: Project Evaluation (12/4)	Quiz 9 (11/21)
WEEK 13 11/28	Contract Law		Quiz 10 (11/28)
4. ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING		WEIGHT %	
Quizzes		30%	
Assignments		30%	
Part I: Literature Review		7.5%	
Part II: Case Study		7.5%	
Part III: Project Evaluation		12%	
Multiple Mini Presentations		5%	
Participation		8%	
Total		100%	
5. LEARNING OUTCOMES			
1. Identify and analyze the essential characteristics of a complex problem from a sustainability perspective, including its ethical dimensions, risks, and uncertainties. (GA 4.5)			
2. Feel and explain a sense of respect for diversity, the environment, and past, present, and future generations in all engineering decisions. (GA 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3)			
3. Identify professional ethical dilemmas and competing stakeholder interests and develop conscientious, well-reasoned, professional responses. (GA 10.1, 10.2, 10.3)			
4. Identify and quantify short and long-term impacts of engineering on a scale ranging from the local to the global. (GA 9)			
5. Communication skills for effective teamwork, influence, and effectiveness. (GA 10)			
6. Thoughtfully consider personal and professional choices and career contributions. (GA's 8, 9, 10, 11)			
7. Be able to critically evaluate and apply knowledge, methods and skills procured through self directed and self identified sources, and is aware of engineering societies and literature. (GA 12)			
6. LABORATORY SAFETY			
The Faculty of Engineering is committed to McMaster University's Workplace and Environmental Health and Safety Policy which states: "Students are required by University policy to comply with all University health, safety and environmental programs and policies". It is your responsibility to understand McMaster University's Risk Management system, which is supported by a collection of Risk Management Manuals (RMMs) that contain programs and policies			

in support of the Risk Management System. The RMMs are available from https://hr.mcmaster.ca/employees/health_safety_well-being/our-safety/risk-management-manuals-rmms/.

It is also your responsibility to follow any specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) provided for specific experiments (see course lab manuals) and the laboratory equipment https://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/sites/default/files/civil_lab_health_and_safety_manual.pdf

Additionally, McMaster University's workplace health and safety guidance related to COVID-19 must always be followed (available from <https://hr.mcmaster.ca/resources/covid19/workplace-health-and-safety-guidance-during-covid-19/>).

7. COMMUNICATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to:

- Maintain current contact information with the University, including address, phone numbers, and emergency contact information.
- Use the University provided e-mail address or maintain a valid forwarding e-mail address.
- Regularly check the official University communications channels. Official University communications are considered received if sent by postal mail, by fax, or by e-mail to the student's designated primary e-mail account via their "@mcmaster.ca" alias.
- Accept that forwarded e-mails may be lost and that e-mail is considered received if sent via the student's @mcmaster.ca alias.
- Check the McMaster/Avenue email and course websites on a regular basis during the term.

8. POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of**

academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

The McMaster Student Absence Form is a self-reporting tool for **Undergraduate Students** to report absences that last up to 5 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed requests per term. It is **your** responsibility to follow up with your Instructor immediately regarding

the nature of the accommodation. If you are absent more than 5 days or exceed 1 request per term you **must** visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation. This form should be filled out immediately when you are about to return to class after your absence.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT (FIPPA)

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) applies to universities. Instructors should take care to protect student names, student numbers, grades, and all other personal information at all times. For example, the submission and return of assignments and the posting of grades must be done in a manner that ensures confidentiality – see <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/fippa/fippa.cfm>.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

The Faculty of Engineering is concerned with ensuring an environment that is free of all discrimination. If there is a problem, individuals are reminded that they should contact the Department Chair, the Sexual Harassment Officer, or the Human Rights Consultant, as soon as possible.

https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/General/HR/Discrimination_and_Harassment.pdf

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

9. MCMASTER GRADING SCALE

Grade	Equivalent Grade Point	Equivalent Percentages
A+	12	90-100
A	11	85-89
A-	10	80-84
B+	9	77-79
B	8	73-76
B-	7	70-72
C+	6	67-69
C	5	63-66
C-	4	60-62
D+	3	57-59
D	2	53-56
D-	1	50-52

F	0	0-49
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