

**CE 401, SPRING 2023, Both Sections**  
**Civil Engineering Senior Seminar Syllabus**

Instructor/Office: J. Richard Cheeks/369 OHR (Civil Engineering Building)

TEXT: A Civil Engineer's Risky Non-Technical Journey Through Ethics, Law, and Business by J. Richard Cheeks, PE JD, 2020, Sugar Creek Publishing

Email: [ce-401@windstream.net](mailto:ce-401@windstream.net)

Office Hours: Friday, 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM and after 1 PM as required for CE-401

**Course Description:**

A discussion of the ethical and professional aspects of civil engineering practice, including ethical duties, ethical decision making, legal duties, professional liability, loss prevention and conflict resolution through small groups, video and oral presentations, and role playing.

**Prerequisites:**

Senior Classification and engineering standing.

**Learning Outcomes:**

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify the need for and the philosophical underpinnings of ethical standards
- Identify four valid theories of ethics
- Understand the Josephson Ethical Decision-Making model and its application to ethical dilemma common to Civil Engineering Practice
- Prepare an essay in which the Josephson Ethical Decision-Making model is applied to an engineering ethical dilemma.
- Understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global, economic, environmental, and societal context.

**Required Materials:**

Each week during the semester, there are assigned readings, videos, and discussion questions using the CANVAS system. CANVAS will release these assignments to students for the following week's activities on Saturday in preparation for the following Friday class session. **Each student should complete the readings and viewings before posting responses to the discussion questions. Each student should post an initial response to the assigned discussion questions by midnight on Tuesday of the week. Randomly assigned discussion group leaders should work with the group members to bring the group to a consensus on the question and post the consensus by midnight on Thursday of the week.**

Most weeks, beginning with week #2, there will also be a required quiz administered through CANVAS on Thursday afternoon/evening, and each student must complete the quiz by midnight on Thursday of the week when there is a quiz. There are 10 quizzes. Quizzes 1 and 10 are each worth 20 points, and quizzes 2 through 9 are each worth 10 points, for a total of 120 points. The quiz questions are drawn from the **READING ASSIGNMENTS, VIDEOS, and CLASS ACTIVITIES and IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS** since the last quiz. **The last quiz of the semester will cover material discussed during the entire semester.**

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GRADING SYSTEM

- |                |             |  |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| 1. Quizzes:    | 120 points. | <u>DO NOT COLLABORATE WITH OTHER STUDENTS WHILE TAKING QUIZZES AS QUIZZES PROVIDE AN ABET ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE.</u>  |
| 2. Discussions | 210 points  | EACH WEEK, STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS IN SMALL GROUPS USING CANVAS. COMPLETION OF THE ASSIGNED DISCUSSIONS EARNS MAXIMUM 15 POINTS FOR THAT WEEK. STUDENTS WILL LOSE POINTS FOR NO PARTICIPATION, LATE PARTICIPATION, OR FAILURE TO DEVELOP AND POST A CONSENSUS.   |
| 3 Attendance:  | 350 points. | STUDENTS WILL LOSE 25 POINTS FOR ANY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE, OR 10 POINTS FOR EACH TARDINESS OR EACH INSTANCES OF LEAVING CLASS EARLY. IF AN ABSENCE IS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE PER UNIVERSITY RULES., IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE WRITTEN VERIFICATION PRIOR TO CLASS WHEN POSSIBLE, AND NO LATER THAN PRIOR TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED CLASS SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF YOUR ABSENCE AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.   |
| 3. CRW:        | 120 points. | THIS WILL BE A TEAM GRADE. ALL MEMBERS OF A NEGOTIATING UNIT WILL RECEIVE THE SAME GRADE FOR THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION WORKSHOP BASED UPON THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT THAT THE NEGOTIATING UNIT ACHIEVES: 60 POINTS FOR ACHIEVING ANY SETTLEMENT, AND THE REMAINING 60 POINTS BASED ON THE TERMS. NO SETTLEMENT = NO POINTS. <u>IF YOU HAVE AN ABSENCE DURING THE 2 WEEK WORKSHOP, YOUR INDIVIDUAL TOTAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY 50 POINTS (25 POINTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES) FOR EACH SUCH ABSENCE.</u> FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES ONLY, A STUDENT MAY REGAIN THE 25 LOST POINTS BY COMPLETING A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT. LOST POINTS DUE TO AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE CANNOT BE RECOVERED. |
| 4. Essay:      | 200 points. | SEE ESSAY ASSIGNMENT FOR DETAILS   |

**GRADING SCALE (No Curve Will Be Used; 899 POINTS IS A “B”)**

A	900-1000 POINTS	D	600-699 POINTS
B	800-899 POINTS	E	599 OR LESS POINTS
C	700-799 POINTS		

Each student is responsible for his/her grade and for tracking the point totals throughout the semester. Bring any question about posted point totals to my attention as soon as possible and expressions of surprise about point totals at the end of the semester is too late.

Final Exam Information

No Final Exam Is Scheduled for CE 401; however, Quiz 10 will be comprehensive and will occur on the next to last Thursday of the semester.

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Mid-term Grade (for 100-500 level courses only)

The Registrar will receive a Midterm Evaluation for each undergraduate student by midterm of the semester based on course performance as reflected by the grades earned and the criteria in syllabus at the time of the midterm evaluation.

Course Policies

*Attendance Policy*

Attendance is important for this Seminar because the conversation that occurs is unique. As such, attendance represents 35% of the total points available in this course to encourage compliance with the attendance policy. Please understand that both absence and tardiness from the Seminar results in a loss of points as described elsewhere in this syllabus. When an absence occurs, the absence is presumed unexcused, e.g. the absence is **not** an Excused Absence as defined by University Policy. An absence, whether excused or unexcused does not excuse completion of the readings, video viewing, discussion questions, and quiz for the week of the absence. Classes begin at 8:00 am or 11:00 am, not 8:02 or 11:02.

*Excused Absences*

Students need to notify me of absences prior to class when possible. [Senate Rule](#) 5.2.5.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences:

- (a) **Significant** illness for the student, or **Serious** Illness of a member of the student's household or immediate family (spouse, child, parent, grand parent, or sibling),
- (b) **Death** of immediate family member (spouse, child, parent, grand parent, or sibling),
- (c) University-related trips<sup>1</sup>,
- (d) major religious holidays, and
- (e) Post graduate employment interviews and post graduate school interviews<sup>2</sup>

An absence under this policy will be an excused absence only when the absence satisfies one of the five enumerated **University Excused Absences**, (a) through (e) above. Students expecting an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying me in writing of expected absences due to their observance of such holidays at least 7 Calendar Days prior to the expected absence AND no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Not all personal or family illnesses are a "significant or serious" illnesses as defined by [Senate Rules](#). Field trips for another class and outside work obligations are not "University-related trips." Further, job interview trips that do not satisfy (e) above are not excused absences.

**Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled (3 Classes for CE 401) for the semester are missed (excused or unexcused) per [Senate Rule](#)**

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<sup>1</sup> Trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, including club sports registered with the university as well as varsity sports..

<sup>2</sup> This does not include absences for postgraduate entrance exams such as the LSAT or GRE.

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**5.2.5.2.3.1.1 Excused absences from required interactions. Since CE-401 only meets 14 times in a semester, three (3) absences, whether excused or unexcused, trigger application of this Rule.**

Verification of Absences

[Senate Rule](#) 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of personal illness and serious illness or death in the family. Appropriate notification and documentation of absences is also required prior to the absence for excused absence categories (c), (d), and (e).

Academic Integrity

Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. The University expects its students to adhere to this University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. **This includes collaboration on the quizzes administered via CANVAS for CE 401.** The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, the University may impose more serious penalties, up to suspension from the university.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student should become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students can find complete information at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not an acceptable defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited. **All submitted work, including quiz responses, must be the student’s own effort.**

*Student Rights and Responsibilities* (<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) Part II states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about the question of plagiarism involving their own work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgement of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else’s work, whether it be a published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, or something like this. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be.

When a student’s assignment involves research in outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to ideas

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that are part of the public domain due to their general and free circulation (Section 6.3.1). **PLEASE NOTE: THE CE 401 ESSAY ASSIGNMENT IS NOT A RESEARCH PAPER.**

Engineering often requires teamwork, and many CE 401 assignments simulate this engineering teamwork environment. For example, reaching a group consensus on the weekly discussion questions, preparing the essay, and resolving the dispute in the conflict resolution workshop are team activities. In this regard, students should discuss these assignments among themselves. However, the activities and work product of these team activities must be the work of those students assigned to the specific teams.

**Please note:** We can check any assignment against an electronic database for plagiarism.

Accommodation Due to Disability

If you have a documented disability that requires an academic accommodation, please either notify me of this status by email or see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. To receive accommodations in this course, you must provide a **Letter of Accommodation** from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address: jkarnes@email.uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

Classroom Behavior Policies: (VERY IMPORTANT-TAKE HEED)

**Students should not use computers, laptops, cell phones, or any other form of electronic communication device in class at any time UNLESS THE ENTIRE CLASS MUST USE THEM TO ACCESS CANVAS IN CLASS OR SUCH USE IS PERMITTED OR DIRECTED BY THE PROFESSOR. Violation of this behavioral policy will result in 15-point attendance grade deduction for that class session without any further explanation or notification. THIS POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. PLEASE NOTE: ACCESSING THE CE 401 READING MATERIALS WITH ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS WILL BE PERMITTED AND IS NOT THE BEHAVIOR TARGETED BY THIS POLICY.**

Hard Copies of Handout Pages

Generally, you should not need printed copies of reading materials for in class use. However, there are some pages within the Readings that you should print prior to the class as noted below:

Session 4	9/16	Ethics, Introduction to Ethics	Values and Behavior Survey, 2 pages
Session 10	10/28	Cost of Litigation	Cost of Litigation Worksheet/Matrix, an excel file you will need ELECTRONIC access during class session, 1 page.

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**CE-401 Civil Engineering Seminar**

Fall Semester 2022

**Friday: Section 1 8:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.<sup>3</sup> FPAT 259**

**Friday: Section 2 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. FPAT 259**

Instructor: J. Richard Cheeks; Office 369; Hours Monday 7:15 am- 7:50 a.m., & 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.  
[ce-401@windstream.net](mailto:ce-401@windstream.net)

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SESSION NUMBER	DATE	TOPIC
1	1/13	Foreword and Chapter 1 Professional Issues, Ethics, “Incident at Morales”
2	1/20	Chapter 2 Ethics: Good Guys Finish Last
3	1/27	Chapter 3 Ethics, Failures, Standard of Care, and Hyatt Regency Kansas City
4	2/3	Chapter 4 Ethics, Introduction to Ethics and Ethical Decision Making
5	2/10	Chapter 5 Ethics, Trueteel Affair
6	2/17	Chapter 6 Ethics, Gilbane Gold
7	2/24	Chapter 7 Ethics, Testing Water ... and Ethics
8	3/3	Ethics, Impact of engineering decisions in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts
8	3/3	Chapter 8 The Law, Contracts, and Torts
9	3/10	Chapter 9 Frivolous Litigation and Professional Liability and <b><u>SUBMIT ESSAY</u></b>
10	3/24	Chapter 10 Cost of Litigation, ADR, Loss Prevention
<b>11</b>	<b>3/31<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Chapter 11 Conflict Resolution Workshop Strategy and Negotiation Sess. 1</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>4/7</b>	<b>Chapter 12 Conflict Resolution Workshop Strategy and Negotiation Sess. 2</b>
13	4/14	Chapter 13 Conflict Resolution Workshop Closing Statement and
14	4/21	Chapter 14 Construction Jobsite Safety Issues

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<sup>3</sup> Most class sessions will NOT require the full 1:50 allocated for CE-401. The goal for class length is 60 to 70 minutes per week, with some expectation that active discussions may continue a few minutes if beneficial in the view of the Professor. The exception to this goal is the Dispute Resolution Workshop during Sessions 11, 12, and 13 for which the full 1:50 allocated will be required.

<sup>4</sup> The Conflict Resolution Workshop (CRW), sessions 11 and 12, will occur rooms to be designated. Attendance and participation in the CRW are **VERY IMPORTANT!!!** Please avoid scheduling conflicts with these two class sessions and note the loss of participation points (in addition to attendance points) that absences produce during this two-week exercise.