

E 125 Group Assignment

Overview

You will work in small groups (4-5 people) to design materials that have the potential to inspire creative thinking about engineering ethics and motivate ethical action.

The final product will be a proposal that describes a resource, method, or activity that could engage your peers to think about ethics in a meaningful way.

The resource will be determined entirely by the group, but it might include:

- The production of a new ethics case study that can be published online for use by other ethics classes
- A web forum that could facilitate ethics discussion
- An annotated database of movies, books, television shows/series, and/or video games that engage issues in engineering ethics (e.g., *Contact*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *Battlestar Gallactica*)
- A game
- A public exhibit

The assignment will involve general project design, interdisciplinary communication, and a combination of research and writing.

“Kickstart” your project

As part of your written proposal and oral presentation, your group will “kickstart” your project. This requirement leaves room for considerable creativity. Your “kickstart” may be carrying out the first few steps of your project, developing a “bare bones” version of your project, or paving the way for implementing your proposal. The following table gives examples of what this might look like for your project.

If your proposal is...	...then a “kickstart” might look like...
...an ethics web forum	...creating the website online and adding sample threads and posts.
...an ethics instant messaging bot	...sample human/robot conversations and examples of the robot logic.
...an ethics “movie night”	...an ordered list of movies, along with discussion questions for each movie.
...distinguished ethics lectures	...interviewing professors about interest and potential lecture topics.

Project deliverables

1. **Written ethics proposal (60% of project grade).** This is a formal proposal outlining the motivation and details of your ethics proposal (uploaded to class blog). Consider the logistics of the proposal (time and cost management), but don't get caught up in the details. Aim for around 2 pages in length.
2. **Oral presentation (30% of project grade).** Your group will present your proposal in class. Your group has **10 minutes** to present, plus **3 minutes** of Q&A. The format can be but does not need to be PowerPoint. Again, there is room for creativity here. For example, if your project is an ethics game, have the class play a round of your game.
3. **Personal reflection (10% of project grade).** Each student will write a personal reflection (write this in your ePortfolio and include a link to your proposal that you will submit in the class blog). Your reflection will explain what you learned (Did you learn anything about ethics?) during your work on the group proposal. Please explain your learning process and answer the question: how did the proposal come together?

Grading

Each student will receive an individual grade that reflects his or her contribution to the assignment. Along the way, students will evaluate each other and also perform self-evaluations. The instructor will weigh these peer and self-evaluations when the final grades are being allocated.

GRADE	CRITERIA
Exemplary (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creatively and comprehensively proposes a new resources that addresses the current needs of the students and peers• Reasonable• Possible to implement• Includes a concrete plan for introducing the resource
Proficient (B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposes a new resources that addresses the current needs of the students and peers• Seems possible to implement
Partially Proficient (C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides an in depth summary of the writing with little analysis
Below Standard (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposes a resource, but does not provide adequate justification or explanation
Incomplete (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nothing new proposed