

First Quiz:

Subject: Chapters **1 and 2** of the textbook.

Review the material covered:

- Book
- Lecture Notes until week 5. The last file to be included in the quiz is: f07.pdf. Notes are posted at:  
<http://www.me.unlv.edu/Undergraduate/courses/egg102/100mat.htm>
- Your class notes

**Chapter 1 revisited:**

- 1.Ethics discussion (the Homework case studies)
- 2.Engineering Ethics: How can you respond to an unethical request?

**Case Study 1: A TOURIST PROBLEM**

The level of pollution in the plant's water discharges slightly exceeds the legal limitations. Solving the problem will cost the plant more than \$200,000.

Marvin's supervisor says the excess should be regarded as a mere "**technicality**," and he asks Marvin to "adjust" the data so that the plant appears to be in compliance.

**Case Study 1: A TOURIST PROBLEM**

How should Marvin respond?

We consult a noted Philosopher:



Immanuel Kant's

***Categorical Imperative:***

***"Act so that the maxim [determining motive of the will] may be capable of becoming a universal law for all rational beings."***

**Case Study 1: A TOURIST PROBLEM**

Misguided loyalty?

Refer to the professional Code of Ethics

While principled loyalty can be a commendable virtue, misguided loyalty has been responsible for many, many tragic moral disasters.

The basic pattern of Ethics failure never changes:

In Classical Greek: **Hybris**

**Hybris is the arrogance that blinds.**

Recommended  
reading:  
**Sophocles**

**King Oedipus**  
(Οιδιπους  
τυραννος)  
**Antigone**



**Oedipus  
and the  
Sphinx.**



Only the blind man (Teiresias) sees the truth.

### **Close to Home**

An ethics case quoted from the Las Vegas  
Review-Journal: Feb. 7, 2005

**JANE ANN MORRISON: Land swaps, then  
and now:**

...In 1996, the inspector general's report concluded  
that taxpayers in Nevada were shortchanged by \$12  
million in just four specific land swaps...

**JANE ANN MORRISON: Land swaps, then  
and now (continued):**

...An ad is published saying the county wants to  
get rid of acreage near the airport, but it can  
**only be used for a cemetery**. Only one man  
applies for a land exchange: Scott Gragson,  
grandson of former Mayor Oran Gragson.  
Then the **restriction disappears**, and land that  
Scott Gragson paid \$2 million to get is quickly  
sold for **\$7 million** to commercial developers,  
giving him a tidy profit of \$5 million....

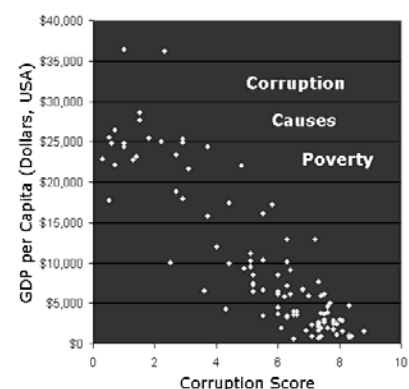
### **The cost of Ethics failure:**

Why are some economies doing well, others  
mired in poverty?

The cost of  
Ethics  
failure:

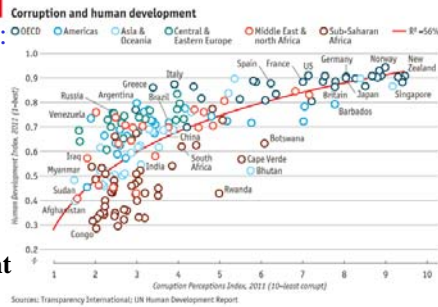
**Corruption  
causes  
Poverty**

#### **GDP vs Corruption**



Corrosive  
corruption:

A  
correlation  
between  
corruption  
and  
development



Dec 2nd 2011,  
The Economist

## Case Study 2: SUNNYVALE

Joan Dreer will be the first woman engineer at Sunnyvale. On learning that their new supervisor will be a woman, several of the engineers inform Jim Grimaldi that they don't like the idea of a woman supervising their work.

## Case Study 2: SUNNYVALE

What should Jim Grimaldi (Joan's supervisor) do? What are the ethical issues involved, and how should they be approached?

## Case Study 2: SUNNYVALE

Consider the charged atmosphere on both sides.

- Joan: Prior Harassment
- Engineers: Unfamiliar new Setting (see Lea Stewart's comments)