



# Ethics



A Petroleum Engineer Boot Camp® Book

# Ethics

by

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# Ethics

## Introduction

Ethics are crucial to your success as a petroleum engineer. With that in mind, the Society of Petroleum Engineers offers their guidelines for professional conduct on the next page.

And since oil is a global commodity, the petroleum engineer must communicate well with people of different cultures, religions and philosophies. With that in mind, the following text also includes brief discussions of Common Law and selected religions and philosophies.



# Ethics

## SPE Guidelines

### Society of Petroleum Engineers

### Guide for Professional Conduct

#### Preamble

SPE Professionals are to exhibit the highest standards of competency, honesty, integrity, and impartiality; and are fair and equitable; and accept a personal responsibility for adherence to applicable laws, the protection of the environment, and safeguarding the public welfare in their professional actions and behavior. These principles govern professional conduct in serving the interests of the public, clients, employers, colleagues, and the profession.

#### Canons of Professional Conduct

SPE Professionals:

1. Offer services in the areas of their competence and experience affording full disclosure of their qualifications.
2. Consider the consequences of their work and societal issues pertinent to it and seek to extend public understanding of those relationships.
3. Are honest, truthful, ethical, and fair in presenting information and in making public statements reflecting on professional matters and their professional role.
4. Engage in professional relationships without bias because of race, religion, sex gender, age, ethnic or national origin, attire, or disability.
5. Act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees disclosing nothing of a proprietary or confidential nature concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer without the required consent.



# Ethics

## SPE Guidelines

### Canons of Professional Conduct (cont'd)

SPE Professionals:

6. Disclose to affected parties known or potential conflicts of interest or other circumstances which might influence - or appear to influence - judgment or impair the fairness or quality of their performance.
7. Are responsible for enhancing their professional competence throughout their careers and for promoting others to advance their learning and competence.
8. Accept responsibility for their actions; seek and acknowledge criticism of their work; offer honest and constructive criticism of the work of others; properly credit the contributions of others; and do not accept credit for work not theirs.
9. When perceiving a consequence of their professional duties to adversely affect the present or future public health and safety shall formally advise their employers or clients, and subordinates and, if warranted, consider further disclosure.
10. Seek to adopt technical and economical measures to minimize environmental impact.
11. Act in accordance with all applicable laws and the canons of ethics as applicable to the practice of engineering as stated in the laws and regulations governing the practice of engineering in their country, territory, or state, and lend support to others who strive to do likewise.



# Ethics

## Common Law

The following Common Law principles summarize ethical behavior:

1. Do all you have agreed to do.
2. Do not encroach on other persons or their property.

According to author Richard J. Maybury, all the major religions agree with these two principles or Common Laws. Common Laws are also called Natural Laws or Higher Laws.

Common Laws are created by God (or nature) to be discovered by Man. Man does not create Common Laws, but simply recognizes that society thrives when Common Laws are obeyed and society fails when Common Laws are ignored.

If you want a deeper understanding of how the world should work according to Common Law, read the 11 book Uncle Eric Series by Richard J. Maybury:

Book 1      **Personal, Career, and Financial Security**

Richard J. Maybury  
1994/2004

Introduces the models our brain uses to process information and describes the best model for success. Avoid viewing the world as rich vs. poor or man vs. nature. Instead, view the world in terms of Common Law vs. political power.

Book 2      **Whatever Happened to Penny Candy?**

Richard J. Maybury  
1989/2010

Explains the economic model. Introduces money supply and money velocity. Learn about obeying Common Law to create economic success.



# Ethics

## Common Law

- Book 3      **Whatever Happened to Justice?**  
Richard J. Maybury  
1993/2004
- Explains the legal model. Learn about Common Law, political law and the U.S. legal system.
- Book 4      **Are You Liberal? Conservative? or Confused?**  
Richard J. Maybury  
1995/2004
- Explains political labels and policies.
- Book 5      **Ancient Rome: How It Affects You Today**  
Richard J. Maybury  
1995/2004
- Explains what happens when a society ignores Common Law.
- Book 6      **Evaluating Books: What Would Thomas Jefferson Think About This?**  
Richard J. Maybury  
1994/2004
- Provides guidelines for selecting written (or spoken) material consistent with the U.S.A.'s Founders.
- Book 7      **The Money Mystery**  
Richard J. Maybury  
1997/2004
- Learn about money supply, money velocity and how to avoid their misuse.



# Ethics

## Common Law

Book 8      **The Clipper Ship Strategy**  
Richard J. Maybury  
1997/2003

Learn how to take advantage of the misuse of money supply and money velocity.

Book 9      **The Thousand Year War in the Mideast**  
Richard J. Maybury  
1999

Explains how events 1,000 years ago on the other side of the world can affect us more today than our hometown current events. Predicts the events that began to unfold on September 11, 2001.

Book 10     **World War I: The Rest of the Story and How It Affects You Today, 1870 to 1935**  
Richard J. Maybury  
2002/2003

Learn the events leading to World War I, the events during the war and how they led to World War II. Includes the 10 deadly ideas that lead to war.

Book 11     **World War II: The Rest of the Story and How It Affects You Today, 1930 to September 11, 2001**  
Richard J. Maybury  
2001/2003

Learn the events of World War II and how our misunderstanding of the war led to the United States of America's subsequent wars.



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## Common Law

If you want a deeper understanding of how the United States was intended to obey Common Law (it no longer does), read:

**The Five Thousand Year Leap**

W. Cleon Skousen

1981



# Ethics



## Religion/Philosophy

## Christianity

**Followers** 2,100 million (33%) - Wikipedia, adherents.com.

**The Promise** Christianity is the only major religion that promises heavenly eternal life without measuring your good deeds on Earth.

Your good deeds are simply a reflection of accepting Jesus as your Lord and savior.

**Beliefs** Christianity and Judaism share the same history and their monotheist belief traces back to Abraham (c. 2000 BCE) and forward through Abraham's son Isaac.

Furthermore, the Christian believes in one God who is a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Similarly, water can be liquid, vapor and ice).

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth and then man to rule the Earth and its creatures. His greatest commandment is for man to Love God and Love People.

But man has a sinful nature and needs a savior.

Therefore, God (the Trinity) sent Jesus Christ (the Son who was there in the beginning) to be born of a virgin human mother in Bethlehem, to teach man about God, to die for man's sins, to rise from the dead and to instruct His followers to spread His message - thereby fulfilling the prophecies of the coming savior.

According to BethlehemStar.com, Jesus was a toddler in 2 BCE and died in 33 CE on April 3.



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## Religion/Philosophy

## Christianity

**Text** The Bible. Christians believe The Bible is the Word of God since it was written by people who lived during the time of Jesus or by people who were divinely inspired. It is a collection of over 60 books written by over 40 authors in about 1,500 years and yet has a perfectly consistent message (see [TheTruthProject.org](http://TheTruthProject.org)).

**Eternity** The Christian believes in eternal life. For that life to be in Heaven rather than Hell, the Christian needs only to repent of his sins and accept Jesus Christ in his heart as his Lord and savior. And this begins a daily relationship with Jesus.

**Mission** The mission for a Christian is to Love God and Love People in such a way that non-believers take notice and desire to learn about Jesus.

The actual conversion of non-believers is left to God, but the Christian's mission is to live a good example and spread the good news (gospel) of Jesus.

**Practices** Individual worship is daily prayer and conversation with Jesus. Typical community worship is in a church on Sundays.

Easter Sunday, in March or April, is the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead.

Christmas, each December 25, is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Christianity has branched into many denominations with additional traditions (e.g. Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Church of England, Lutheran, Protestant, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Amish, Mormon).



# Ethics



## Religion/Philosophy

## Islam

**Followers** 1,500 million (24%) - Wikipedia, adherents.com.

### Beliefs

Muslims believe in Allah the one God of the entire world.

Muslims also trace their monotheist belief back to Abraham (c. 2000 BCE) but forward through Abraham's son Ishmael. They believe Abraham and Ishmael built the Kaaba (temple) in Mecca that shelters the Black Stone which fell from Paradise.

Muslims believe that Jesus was not God, but a prophet followed by the final prophet Muhammad who received the more complete word of God through the Angel Gabriel in Mecca in 611 CE.

In 622 CE, Muhammad and his 200 followers went to Medina and founded Islam led by Muhammad. Since the Jews and Christians did not accept Islam, Muslims began facing Mecca during prayers.

In 630 CE, Muhammad conquered Mecca and made it the holy city of Islam.

Muslims believe in total submission to Allah's will who will judge them in the end. They also believe Satan is a fallen angel who tempts man to do evil.

Shia Muslims (20%) believe Muhammad's successors should be of his family line.

Sunni Muslims (80%) believe Muhammad's successors should be chosen by the community.

### Text

The Koran is a record of everything revealed to Muhammad by Allah through Gabriel.

The Hadith is a collection of Muhammad's sayings.



# Ethics



## Religion/Philosophy

## Islam

### Eternity

To enter Paradise, the Muslim must be a believer, must repent of his sins and must have accomplished sufficient good deeds on Earth to pass Allah's judgment.

Non-believers and sinners spend eternity in Hell.

### Practices

Congregational worship is in a mosque on Friday.

Ramadan month, typically starting in July, is the celebration of the month Allah spent revealing the Koran to Muhammad.

To be a true submissive believer, the Muslim must practice the Five Pillars of Islam:

**Testimony** Recite the Shahadah (testimony under oath - Allah is the one God and Muhammad is God's Messenger) at least once.

**Prayer** Perform the Salat (prayer) 5 times a day while facing the Kaaba in Mecca:  
Sunrise, Noon, Mid afternoon, Sunset,  
Nightfall

**Giving** Donate regularly to charity.

**Fasting** Fast during Ramadan.

**Pilgrimage** If possible, make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once.

Muslims avoid alcohol, drugs, pork and gambling.



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## Religion/Philosophy

## Hinduism

**Followers** 900 million (14%) - Wikipedia, adherents.com.

**Beliefs** Hindus (c. 2500 BCE) believe in the quest for total unity with the universe.

This totality is known as Brahman, The Supreme One. Since Brahman is beyond human traits, such as love and mercy, Hindus worship a large number of personal gods as well. These gods are in the form of cows, deer, horses, hogs, monkeys, elephants, etc., and each is a reflection of Brahman.

In the beginning, there was total unity as there will be in the end. In between, Hindus live their lives based on a strict caste system with specific duties for each caste.

Hindus believe they can only change their caste through reincarnation. Their karma, which is the balance of good deeds and bad deeds, determines the caste they are born into. Therefore, each person is responsible for his current predicament and his future caste.

Hindus believe they reach unity with Brahman by knowing their inner self - their Atman - completely. This happens naturally by climbing to higher and higher castes. It is also remotely possible to unite their Atman with Brahman by deep introspection from any caste.



# Ethics



## Religion/Philosophy

## Hinduism

### Text

The Brahmas (c. 1200 BCE) are rules the priests gave for rituals of worship.

The Vedas (c. 1000 BCE) are ancient poems and hymns.

The Upanishads (c. 800 BCE) are answers by hermits and teachers for questions about life and the universe.

The Great Epics, including the Bhagavad Gita, are the written records of ancient philosophical and religious poems.

### Practices

Daily Hindu worship (meditation, yoga) can occur at home, in a Hindu temple and/or at a roadside shrine. It is primarily an individual act.



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## Religion/Philosophy

## Buddhism

**Followers** 450 million (7%) - Wikipedia, adherents.com.

**Beliefs** Buddhism, like Hinduism, is a quest to find harmony within yourself and the universe except without the delay of multiple reincarnations.

Buddhism follows the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, a prince in India and a trained Hindu, who reached enlightenment and became the Buddha, the "awakened one," in 535 BCE by meditating and discovering the Middle Path to harmony.

The Middle Path avoids the two extremes of self indulgence and self denial (including fasting). Buddhism teaches self control and moderation in all things.

Buddhism teaches that suffering is a part of life, but one can end it with The 8 Step Middle Path toward Nirvana.

Nirvana is the elimination of all extreme desires such as covetousness and resentment resulting in a great sense of peace. It also releases one from all future reincarnations.

**Text** The Tripitaka is a collection of the Buddha's teachings.

**Practices** Buddhists can worship (meditate) before the shrine in their home or at a Buddhist temple. Congregational worship is not necessary.

The 8 Step Middle Path toward Nirvana is:  
Right View, Right Intention, Right Speech,  
Right Action, Right Livelihood,  
Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, and  
Right Concentration (including Yoga).



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## Religion/Philosophy

## Confucianism

### Followers

Hundreds of million (3%) - Wikipedia, adherents.com.

### Beliefs

K'ung Fu Tzu (Confucius) was born in 551 BCE in China during a time when many institutions were corrupt.

Legend has it that Confucius met with Lao-Tse (the founder of Taoism) to discuss ways to improve Chinese quality of life.

Confucius decided the best approach was to relearn and improve the forgotten morals of the past and he is remembered as the great teacher. Confucianism is primarily an ethical system for individuals and rulers.

Confucius advised becoming a Superior Man by living with Five Constant Virtues:

<b>Attitude</b>	Cooperation and Self Control
<b>Procedure</b>	Rules for Etiquette and Ceremony
<b>Knowledge</b>	Chinese Classics describing the Proper Morals
<b>Moral Courage</b>	Every deed improves human relationships
<b>Persistence</b>	Always performing the right duty on each occasion thereby remaining in harmony with the universe



# Ethics

## Religion/Philosophy



## Confucianism

### Beliefs

Confucius also taught that Five Relationships must be right:

**Husband and Wife**

**Father and Son**

**Elder Brother and Younger Brother**

**Ruler and Subject**

**Friend and Friend**

These ten people must be virtuous toward one another for harmony to exist.

Confucianists have a deep respect for their elders and ancestors.

### Text

The Analects of Confucius is a collection of his teachings.

### Practices

A Confucianist strives to perform his role in society in a virtuous manner.



# Ethics



## Religion/Philosophy

## Taoism

**Followers**                      Hundreds of million (3%) - Wikipedia, adherents.com.

**Beliefs**                        Lao-Tse (c. 600 BCE), a contemporary of Confucius in China, founded Taoism which was adopted as a state religion.

Tao is "the way of the world" or "the way of nature." Taoists believe Man's duty is to become one with the Tao.

Man should not use force to shape the world to meet his desires. He should plan actions well in advance and execute them with minimal disturbance.

He stays focused on:

**Love**                              He has compassion for good and bad people.

**Moderation**                      He avoids excess in any direction because it blocks contentment. He tries not to upset the balance of Yin (dark side) and Yang (light side) in nature. Yin and Yang represent the pairs of opposites in the universe, such as good and evil.

**Humility**                              He stays harmonious. He does not constantly plot to acquire additional responsibilities or promotions.

**Text**                                The Tao-te-Ching by Lao-Tse is the collection of his teachings.

**Practices**                        Taoists practice Tai Chi, a slow deliberate exercise, to balance the flow of energy ("chi") in the body.



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## Religion/Philosophy

## Shinto

**Followers** 50 million (0.8%) - Wikipedia, adherents.com.

**Beliefs** Shinto, or "the way of the gods," is a Japanese religion dating back to about 500 BCE.

Shinto celebrates the beauty of nature and includes many gods and goddesses representing the divinity in all natural things. The primary deities are:

Izanagi the Sky Father

Izanami the Earth Mother

and all other gods are descendents of them.

They also gave birth to the Japanese islands. One of their daughters Amaterasu the Sun Goddess deemed the islands worthy of being the center of the world so she sent her grandson to be the first Japanese ruler. Therefore, the Imperial Family is descended from a god.

Since the Japanese and their lands are chosen by the gods, the Japanese take deep pride in the land and their countrymen.

**Text** The Kojiki is the earliest record of the Japanese creation myths.

The Nihon Shoki (or Nihongi) is known as The Chronicles of Japan and is the more complete historical record of ancient Japan.

**Practices** Shinto has no commandments or moral rules to follow. They are considered unnecessary because the Japanese believe in the natural goodness of men and revere peace and life.

Worship of the various gods is in public shrines or before shrines in the home.



# Ethics



## Religion/Philosophy

## Judaism

**Followers** 16 million (0.3%) - Wikipedia, adherents.com.

**Beliefs** Judaism is the mother religion of Christianity and Islam.

The patriarchs include:

Adam Created by God.

Noah Survived the flood.

Abraham Accepted the Covenant from God and spread the monotheist belief (c. 2000 BCE).

Moses Delivered the Jews from Egyptian slavery and received the laws from God on Mount Sinai.

Joshua Led the Jews into the Promised Land.

David Established Jerusalem.

Solomon Built the first temple in Jerusalem (960 BCE).

In 70 CE, the Romans destroyed the rebuilt and renovated second temple. The Jews then scattered around the world until 1948 when Palestine was divided into Jordan for the Muslims and Israel for the Jews.

The Jews believe we are made in God's image. Therefore, we have a natural capacity for goodness and should have little difficulty living by God's laws. They await the coming Messiah and their entry into Heaven depends on their good deeds.

Although the Jews began as God's chosen people, they are tolerant of other religions and do not preach that salvation requires a conversion to Judaism.



# Ethics



## Religion/Philosophy

## Judaism

### Text

The Torah is the first 5 books of the Jewish Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

The Tanakh is the Jewish Bible which is the same as The Old Testament of the Christian Bible.

The Talmud updates the old texts with the opinions of thousands of rabbis on a variety of subjects.

### Practices

Orthodox Jews keep the Mosaic laws as written including dietary restrictions and Sabbath limitations.

Conservative Jews honor and respect the Torah but are open to more modern applications.

Reform Jews adapt the Jewish traditions to modern western life with sermons in English and confirmation for both boys and girls.

Worship is in a synagogue on the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is sunset Friday to sunset Saturday during which Jews focus on worship and rest.

Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread) is in the spring and it is a celebration of the Jews surviving the 10th Egyptian plague followed by a week long celebration commemorating The Exodus of the ancient Jews from Egyptian slavery.



# Ethics



## Religion/Philosophy

## Judaism

### Practices

Rosh Hashanah is the New Year celebration lasting 10 days in the seventh month of the lunar calendar (in September or October).

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) is the holiest day of the year for Jews. It is the climax of Rosh Hashanah beginning at sunset on the 10th day of the New Year. The focus is on solemn thought, prayer, fasting and forgiveness for wronging others.

Hanukkah (Festival of Lights or Feast of Dedication) is the 8 day celebration in late November or December commemorating a victory for religious freedom and the rededication of the Holy Temple. A single container of oil lasted 8 days burning before the altar.



# Ethics

## Religion/Philosophy      References

The following references supplied the above comparative religion/philosophy data:

Wikipedia

adherents.com

omsakthi.org/religions.html

**The Great Religions by which Men Live**  
by Floyd H. Ross and Tynette Hills  
1956/1983/1990



# Ethics

## Conclusion

A common question asked of young people in the United States culture is:  
"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

A better question is:  
"Who do you want to be?"

Are you going to be a person who believes in good solid principles?

Will your words match your principles?

Will your actions match your principles?

Will your words and your actions match each other?

Will you always do the right thing - especially when no one is watching?

Will you find common ground with people of different cultures?

Will you be trustworthy?

Or not?

Of course, who you become is a work in progress. Hopefully, these notes on Ethics will help.

