

SENG4921 Assignment Overview

Ken Robinson

4th April 2004

Part A is concerned with exploring traditional professions such as medicine, law and engineering —and any others you wish to explore— in order to get a better understanding of what is involved when something is called a “profession”. You are required to build a picture of how these professions go about ensuring that members of the profession behave “appropriately”.

Also you should use Stephen Cohen’s characterisation of “Codes of Ethics” and “Codes of Conduct” to determine how each profession uses these.

Then as far as you can you are asked to do the same type of analysis for three computing/software engineering codes of ethics/conduct.

Finally in Part A you are to compare and contrast your findings for the “traditional professions” and the computing profession(s). Of course the intention is to get some sort of handle on what it would mean for software engineering to be a profession. Is it now, or would it have to do/change some things?

Part B is concerned with considering a paper that draws some interesting conclusions about the impact of the information society on ethics and morals. This might be a self standing question, but it might impact on Part C?

Part C in some ways leads on from Part A to consider what software engineering programs should contain in order to meet the requirements of the analysis found in Part A and the questions raised in the Davis chapter.