



Introduction to Ethics

Foundations and Frameworks

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Outline

- ◆ Some Questions
- ◆ What is Ethics
- ◆ Branches of Ethics
- ◆ Applied Ethics
- ◆ Meta-ethics
- ◆ (Normative) Ethics
- ◆ Properties of Ethical Theories
- ◆ Moor's Just-Consequentialism
- ◆ Other Topics

Questions

- ◆ What do we mean by
 - Moral obligation
 - Moral responsibility
 - Morally praiseworthy
 - Morally blameworthy
- ◆ What are our 'Rights'
- ◆ When is something immoral
- ◆ When is something amoral

What is Ethics?

- ◆ A branch of philosophy
 - aka moral philosophy
 - As such, uses reason and logical argument to establish propositions
 - Susceptible to logical fallacies
- ◆ The study of right and wrong action
- ◆ Prescriptive vs. descriptive
- ◆ Impartial (like math and science)

Branches of Ethics

- ◆ Applied ethics
- ◆ Ethics (aka Normative ethics)
- ◆ Meta-ethics

- ◆ !Descriptive ethics
 - That is sociology

Applied Ethics

- ◆ Bioethics
- ◆ Business ethics
- ◆ Professional ethics
- ◆ Engineering ethics
- ◆ Computer ethics
 - Privacy
 - Intellectual property and fair use
 - . . .
- ◆ Social issues
 - Euthanasia
 - Animal rights
 - . . .

Meta-ethics

- ◆ What is the 'good'
 - The big question
 - Core values
- ◆ Is morality universal or relative
- ◆ How are moral propositions defended

(Normative) Ethics

- ◆ Utilitarianism (consequence based)
- ◆ Deontology (duty based)
- ◆ Contractualism (contract based)
- ◆ Natural rights (rights based)
- ◆ Virtue (character based)

Properties of Ethical Theories

- ◆ Coherent
- ◆ Consistent
- ◆ Comprehensive
- ◆ Systematic
- ◆ Impartial

Moor's Just-Consequentialism

- ◆ Deliberate over policies, verify that
 - Causes no unnecessary harm
 - Supports individual rights and duties
- ◆ Select best policy by ranking benefits & harm
 - Weigh carefully between good & bad consequences
 - Distinguish between disputes of fact vs principles and values

Other Topics

- ◆ Moral intuition
- ◆ Law, society, religion
- ◆ Consequence vs. intent
- ◆ Moral discourse stoppers

Questions and Discussion

