

Lesson 2

Notes

Why Study Ethics

- Ethics are important because
- Ethics are crucial because
- Morality is primarily concerned with

Some Related Questions

- What
- What
- What
- What
- These are fundamental to your worldview.

Applications

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Key Terms

- Ethics
- Morality

Is it right or wrong

• Speeding • Paying for food • Coming to class on time • Murder • Paying bills • Cheating • Stealing • Rape • Helping the less fortunate	• Abortion • Capital Punishment • Suicide • Euthanasia • War • Poverty • Stem Cell Research • Cloning
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Ethical Frameworks vs. Applied Ethics	
Ethical Frameworks	Applied Ethics

Broad Ethical Categories

- Descriptive Ethics
- Normative Ethics
- Metaethics
- Virtue Ethics

Ethics In Seven Sentences

- Protagoras-
- Socrates-
- Aristotle-
- Saint-Augustine-

- Descartes-
- Pascal-
- Kierkegaard-

Three Parts of Morality

1. External
2. Internal
3. Serving

Moral Philosophy

- Three Parts Related Trends in Moral Philosophy
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- Philosophical ethics analyzes and evaluates these guidelines in light of accepted universal principles and concerns

Normative and Theoretical Ethics

- Theoretical Ethics/Metaethics
- Normative Ethics

Normative Ethics

- Affects our lives at all levels:

Metaethics Ethics

- The starting point is the most basic insights regarding morality.
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Metaethical Frameworks

Ethical Frameworks		
Non-Cognitive	Cognitive	
Emotivism	<u>Relativist Frameworks</u> Ethical Subjectivism Cultural Relativism Divine Command	<u>Universalist Frameworks</u> Ethical Egoism Utilitarianism Natural Law Deontology Virtue Ethics Rights Ethics

Emotivism

- Emotivism

Relativist vs. Universalist

- Relativist
- Universalist

Relativist Frameworks

- Ethical Subjectivism
- Cultural Relativism

- Divine Command

Universalist Frameworks

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- These principles exist independently of an individual's or a society's opinion.

Metaphysics

- Metaphysics

Metaphysical Dualism and Materialism

- Metaphysical Dualism
- Metaphysical Materialism

Determinism

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- We are governed by unconscious forces.
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- Existentialists believe the opposite, that we are defined by our freedom, and we have the responsibility to create our own moral principles upon which we act.

Conscience

- The study of ethics must take into account relevant facts about human nature and behavior.
- The primary reason for studying ethics is to make us better people, and we must understand the development and the process it plays.

What Is Conscience?

- **Conscience**
- It provides
- It involves
- Conscience
- C.S. Lewis- “We must believe that the conscience of man is not a product of nature”
- “Human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and can not really get rid of it”
- Plato defined conscience as an activity of the soul that directs us toward the good.
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- Plato even suggested the execution of these people or those “whose souls are incurably evil.”

Three Factors To Conscience

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Heredity and Biological Factors

- **Altruistic Behavior**

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Learning or Environmental Factors

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Determinism vs. Moral Responsibility

- **Determinism**
- **Moral Responsibility**

Affective and Cognitive Side Of Conscience

- Conscience can be broken into two parts
 - Affective
 - Cognitive
- Moral knowledge
- Moral sentiments

- Sympathy
- Moral Outrage
- Moral indignation

The Stage Theory of Moral Development

Kohlberg Stages of Moral Development	
Stage	Description
Preconventional	
1. Punishment and obedience	Avoid punishment, submit to authority. Fear of punishment is the primary motive
2. Egoist	Satisfy one's own needs, only consider the needs of others if it benefits you: "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours."
Conventional	
3. Good Boy/Nice Girl	Please and help others, concern for maintaining good relationships and earning other's approval, conformity to peer and group norms
4. Society Maintaining	Respect authority and social rules, maintain the existing social order.
Postconventional	
5. Social contract or legalistic	Obey useful, albeit arbitrary, social rules, appeal to social consensus and majority rule as long as minimal basic rights are safeguarded. The US Constitution is written using this stage of reasoning.
6. Conscience and universal principles	Autonomously recognize universal rules, such as justice and equality, that are rational and logically consistent and reflect a respect for equal human rights and the dignity of each individual.

Moral Behavior

"There is widespread agreement that morality has more components than just moral judgment. The trick, however, is to identify what else there is in morality and how all these pieces fit together." James Rest

Four Components Of Moral Behavior

- Moral Sensitivity

- Moral Reasoning or Judgment
- Moral Motivation
- Moral Character

Moral Actions

- Categories of Moral Action
 - - May do or not do without incurring any moral guilt
 - Acts that are *neither* mandated nor forbidden
 - Example: jogging 3 times a week
 - - A deed that is *either* mandated or prohibited
 - A mandate cannot be avoided without moral censure
 - A prohibition cannot be engaged without moral censure
 - Example: being faithful to your spouse, killing an innocent person
 - - An act that goes beyond the call of duty
 - A deed that is morally praiseworthy but cannot be required
 - Example: Jumping on a grenade to save others in a platoon

How To Define The Nature Of Ethical Norms

- - No universal norms of any sort
 - Conflicting moral norms cannot arise
 - Decisions made on personal grounds
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- No universal norms, only general guidelines
 - Conflicting moral norms do not arise
 - General rules allow exceptions in specific cases as a way to resolve conflicts
- - Only one universal norm (i.e., do the right thing)
 - The “right” thing varies from situation to situation
 - Conflicting norms cannot arise because of the overarching principle of the situation
- - Many universal ethical norms
 - Ethical norms can and do conflict in some situations
 - May be forced to break a norm, but doing so always remains “wrong.”
 - Example: Bonhoeffer’s decision to take part in a plot to assassinate Hitler. Murder is always wrong, but is forgivable if necessary to prevent greater evil (the murder and torture of thousands of innocent Jews)
- - Many universal ethical norms
 - Norms are arranged in a discernible hierarchy
 - Ethical norms can and do conflict from time to time
 - Not wrong to break a lower norm in order to keep a higher one
 - Example: Corrie ten Boom telling a lie to Nazi to save Jews hiding in her home
 - The hierarchy of norms is not always clear, and if the right course is not obvious, then we must simply do the best we can to decide between conflicting duties
- - This is based on recognizing that the Ten Commandments are all much more than simple rules
 - All succinctly state the unexceptional norm at the center of a distinctly separate category in God’s moral revelation
 - The 9th commandment, “do not bear false witness,” “the sanctity of truth,” states the unexceptional core of God’s truth norm
 - We should not assume we know what “truth” means before learning what God says it means in the Bible
 - God’s moral standards never conflict