



Introduction to Practical Ethics

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Ethics - Part 1



Learning Objectives

2

What is the difference between ethical and aesthetic values?
Describe the differences between three types of ethical theories.



Learning Objectives

3

Pick two arenas of ethics and explain how ethics may operate differently.



4

Public ethics is like a jigsaw puzzle with some pieces missing and some that do not fit!



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Ethical Concepts



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Values

What we hold in high regard...
Normative values: what ought to be
Non-moral values: personal preferences, prudence, aesthetics



Ethics and Aesthetic

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Moral values address morality Aesthetic values address non-moral preferences	Both involve values Often confused Often basis of environmental conflicts
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Arenas of Ethics

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Private - interpersonal relationships Functional - rules, laws etc. Citizen	Community Professional Organizational Institutional Public Policy Others...
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Terms

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What's good is prescriptive - what we should do
 What's right is evaluative - judgment
 Virtue is character - what we are



Ethical Theories

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Ethical Theories

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Guide to Moral Human Action
 Virtue: character, moral fiber, honor, integrity, etc.
 Principles: actions, processes, means, methods
 Consequentialism: outcomes, net overall benefits, utility



Ethical Theories

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There is an agent or person who performs some action that has particular consequences.



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“One might say that a certain action was the best thing you could do (net benefits/utility) and perhaps it was even the right thing to do (principles/process) but it was not the admirable thing to do (virtue/character)”

adapted from Graber (1998)



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Practical Ethics

Reflections on the morality of actions (ethics)...

...by people in their everyday vocations of work, family and community



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Practical Ethics

Most of the time the right thing to do is clear...

When its not clear we face dilemmas, and must choose between competing moral obligations and values. This is what challenges us and makes us grow.



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Discussion: New Source Review

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What ‘goal(s)’ are expressed by people on different sides of the issue?
What are their ‘target of change’?
What does the ‘target of change’ imply about other ‘goals’ not expressed?