

COMPLETION MARKER --VOCABULARY 1 LOOK UP

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Phil 2306: Introduction to Philosophy

Houston Community College

VOCABULARY LOOK UP ASSIGNMENT

The meaning of the following terms found in the provided resources are as follows:

1. **Ethics in general definition:** “The branch of philosophy dealing with values related to human conduct, with respect to the rightness and wrongness of the motives and ends of such actions.” This means referring to a set of principles of right and wrong defined by a specific community and placed on members of that community as a way of controlling their actions and setting boundaries.
2. **Moral Philosophy definition:** “The study of the values and guidelines by which we live and the justification for these values and guidelines in light of reason.” This implies that in the context of acknowledged universal values and theories, Moral Philosophy evaluates and examines these guidelines, not only from the individual but also from the cultural relativist perspective.
3. **Theoretical Ethics:** “This is purely a study about ethical systems and theories which explain WHY WE SHOULD ACT in a certain way.” Theoretical ethics, I believe, is the systematic effort to comprehend moral principles and to interpret moral values and principles.
4. **Normative Ethics:** “Normative Ethics deals with hands-on practical guidelines or norms regarding which actions are right and which are wrong, telling us HOW WE SHOULD ACT in a particular situation.” Normative Ethics provides us with practical values or guidelines that can be applied to real-life circumstances like the morality of abortion, capital punishment, and animal rights, etc.
5. **Human Acts:** “Human acts are referred to by Ethics as those acts which are proper to the human person. Human Acts are derived from the fact that: Man is rational

(Human being has a reason), and Man is free (Human being has voluntary human activity).” This indicates that human actions are those actions that proceed from knowing and are deliberate actions in which humans have control over, so humans are accountable for them.

6. **Acts of Man:** “Acts of man refers to man’s acts of sensation like our use of senses and appetite like the desire for food, our longing for satisfaction, something that pertains to bodily tendencies and needs. These are the acts performed in-deliberately or without advertence –hence “no direct attention or planning” and “without exercise of free choice”.” Subsequently, these acts are our own acts, however as instinctive acts, without any consideration, deliberation, or guidance on our behalf, they are automatic such as state of unconsciousness, sleep, infancy, etc. We cannot, therefore, be held accountable for this.
7. **Universalist Theories:** “Morality has universal moral values that apply to all humans at all times. MORALITY IS DISCOVERED. Morality includes all humans not only those living in a particular culture or society.” Based on the premise that all humans are distinguished by an inherent capacity to simplify language, Universalist Theories seek to describe fundamental similarities between the pidgins and creoles of the world.
8. **Ethical Subjectivism:** “Ethical Subjectivism is the moral right or wrong is relative to the individual person and moral truth is a matter of individual opinion (feeling).” Ethical Subjectivism implies the ethical sentences that convey propositions. Several certain propositions are valid. The validity or falsification of these propositions depends inevitably on people's (actual or hypothetical) attitudes.

9. **Cultural Relativism:** “Cultural Relativism argues that morality is created by groups of people and it differs from society to society. Every society has its own moral norms, which are binding to people who belong to that society.” Consequently, Cultural Relativism is the ability to recognize a culture on its own principles and not to make assumptions with one's own culture's principles. Also, the purpose of this is to stimulate awareness of cultural values that are not necessarily part of one's own culture.
10. **Emotivism:** “Morality is simply expressions or outburst of feelings. No Moral Truth involved.” This signifies that moral judgments do not serve as factual statements, but instead as interpretations of the feelings of the writer or speaker.