

Week 2

Morality:

Descriptive definition: A set of rules or codes of conduct for right conduct or behavior.

Normative definition: ideal code of conduct that would be observed by all rationales.

Why study Morality?

- To regulate and modify our behavior.
- To judge people on what is right and what is wrong.

Subscript: fundamental concept we believe in. our moral dictionary.

Reasoning is the Ability to:

- Perceive moral principles.
- Rank moral principles.
- Justify moral choice.
- Determine impacts and consequences of moral action.

Moral codes: subscripts, norms, rules within a group.

Law:

- Rule of conduct recognized by a group or decreed by a formal community institution.
- An instrument to artistically exercise power.

Benefit of law: Conform to the code of conduct.

Types of law:

- Physical law: organizing non-free beings to uniform actions.
- Moral law: free rational beings.
- Natural law: unwritten universal law existing from human natural preferences
- Conventional law: created by and for humans. It can be declarative or determinative.

Why do we need laws?

- The ignorant – wise control theory.
- Community teamwork and leaderships.
- Harmonizing society.
- Regularize penalty for the safety of public.

Penal Code:

- Retributive to the victim.
- Corrective to the offender.
- Deterrent - prevent similar actions by the offender

Conventional laws of a society are determined by the moral beliefs of the society.

Differences between Morality and Law:

- Process of making codes and laws.
- Enforcement.
- Nature of punishments.
- Conflict resolution.
- Judgment.

Etiquette: A code of behavior or a set of norms of correct conduct expected by society, group, class of people.

Manners: unforced cultural standards approved or disapproved by society.

Ethical analysis: Justify reasons by explaining whether objectives are achievable and discuss pros and cons.

Ethics:

- From Greek eche'.
- Study of right and wrong in human conduct (Austin Fagothey).
- A set of theories of value, brute or of right valuable actions (Robert Solomon).

Benefit of studying ethics: Distinguish between right and wrong.

Tools for ethical analysis:

- Deductive and inductive argumental analysis.
- Ethical theories.



Ethical theories:

1. **Consequentialism:** Judgment depends on the result of action.

Types of consequentialism:

- **Egoism:** me first (self-satisfaction).
- **Utilitarianism:** group interest and happiness.
- **Altruism:** action is right if the consequences are favorable to others.

2. **Deontology:** will of action.

Examples: Killing of an armed intruder, assisting an injured, Hacking a computer of a suspect.

3. **Human Nature:** explore and develop capabilities, benchmark for future action.

4. **Hedonism:** maximize pleasure and minimize pain.

5. **Emotivism:** Ethical actions cannot be true or false. They are just feelings.

Examples: Owning a gun, Owning hacking tools.

6. **Relativism:** to society, culture, or individual. Moral norms are relative and may change in time.

Ethical reasoning: Building ethical layers.

Functional theory of ethics:

$F(\text{action } a \text{ in } A, \text{ ethical theory } b \text{ in } B) = \text{value } c \text{ in } C$

$C = 1$ if action is right or good.

$C = 0$ if action is wrong or bad.

Reasoning: a human cognitive process of looking for ways to generate or affirm a proposition.

Cognitive processes:

- Experience.
- Interpretation.
- Forecast/foresee.
- Ordering.
- Analyzing.
- Making connections.

Logic: a tool to distinguish between right and wrong.

Ethical decision-making Framework:

1. Investigate a decision which may result in moral conflicts.
2. Recognize conflict via Comprehension, Appreciation, Evaluation.
3. Identify involved parties.
4. Search for and analyze alternatives.
5. Demonstrate practical knowledge.
6. Understand the method and affected sides.
7. Understand impact.

ACM Code of ethics given in exam.