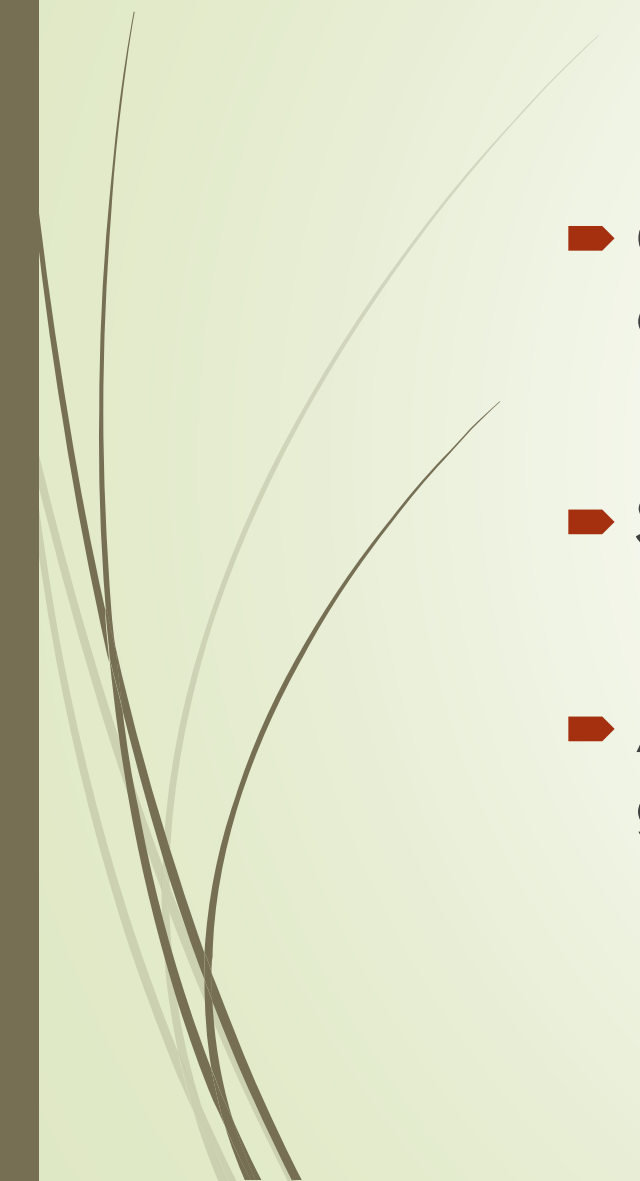




# Ethics



# What is Ethics?

- Came from the Greek word, “*Ethos*” which means character
  - Study of right and wrong, good and bad human actions
  - A system of moral principles defining right and wrong, guiding behavior in various situations.
- 



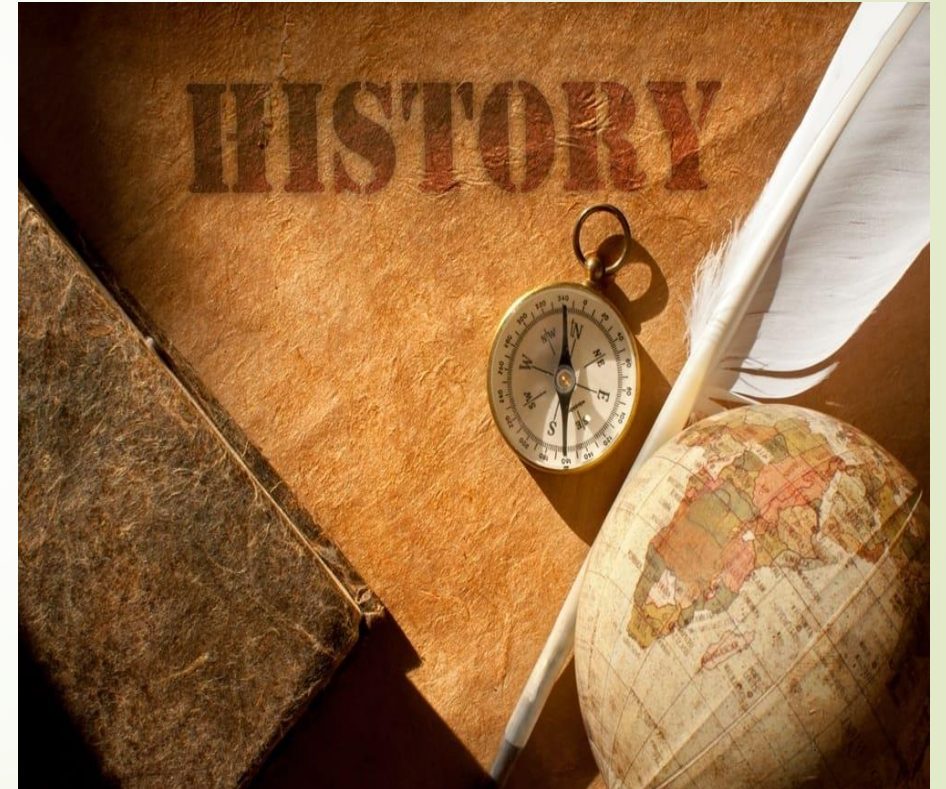
# Key Concepts in Ethics

- **Morality** – from Latin mores (customs). Actual rules and standards of conduct in a society.
- **Values** – important beliefs or ideals that guide our actions (e.g., honesty, respect, justice).
- **Norms** – common rules or expectations followed by a group.
- **Law vs. Ethics** – Laws are enforced by government; Ethics are moral principles, even if not written in law.

# Brief History of Ethics

## Ancient Period (Greece)

- Socrates – “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Virtue = knowledge.
- Plato – Justice is harmony in the soul and society.
- Aristotle – Virtue Ethics: Happiness is life's goal; achieved through good habits (virtues).





# Brief History of Ethics

## Medieval Period (Christian Philosophy)

- St. Augustine – True happiness is found in God.
- St. Thomas Aquinas – Natural Law: reason + divine order guide moral choices.



# Brief History of Ethics

## Modern Period (17th–19th Century)

- Immanuel Kant – Deontology: Morality is duty-based, “Act only on principles you want universalized.”
- Jeremy Bentham & John Stuart Mill – Utilitarianism: Best action = greatest happiness for the greatest number.
- Friedrich Nietzsche – Questioned traditional morality, promoted re-evaluating values.





# Brief History of Ethics

## Contemporary Ethics (20th–21st Century)

- Indigenous values: pakikipagkapwa (shared identity), bayanihan (cooperation), utang na loob (gratitude).
- Spanish era: Catholic moral philosophy.
- American era: Democratic and pragmatic values.
- Today: Ethics is part of the CHED GE Curriculum to develop responsible citizens and professionals.



# MORAL VS NON-MORAL STANDARDS







# What is?

## Moral Standard

- *Rules about right and wrong that protect human dignity and well-being.*

## Non-Moral Standard

- *Rules about order, preference, or efficiency not directly related to morality.*



# What is the source?

## Moral Standard

- *Society, culture, religion, philosophy, human reason.*

## Non-Moral Standard

- *Customs, traditions, policies, practical agreements.*



# What is the flexibility?

## Moral Standard

- *Considered serious and binding; not easily changed.*

## Non-Moral Standard

- *Can change depending on context or institution.*





# What is the consequence?

## Moral Standard

- *Seen as immoral*

## Non-Moral Standard

- *May be disapproved but not seen as immoral*



# Example?

## Moral Standard

- *Honesty, respect for life, fairness, no stealing, no cheating.*

*\*\*Corruption in government is morally wrong.*

## Non-Moral Standard

- *Dress codes, dining etiquette, traffic rules, classroom policies.*

*\*\*Not wearing the school uniform may break policy, but is not immoral.*



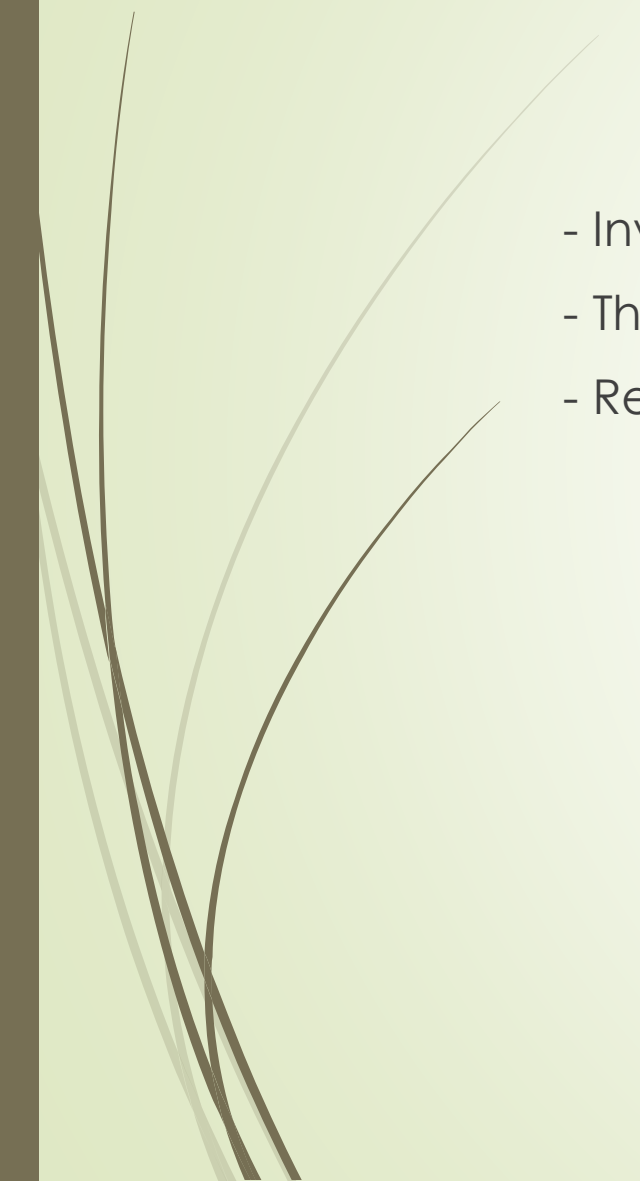
# Moral Dilemma

- A moral dilemma arises when a person encounters a challenging situation where conflicting moral standards, duties, or values are at play, and selecting one option results in violating another





# Key points of Moral Dilemma

- Involves a conflict between equally important moral values.
  - There is no easy or perfect solution.
  - Requires careful judgment and reasoning.
- 



# Example of Moral Dilemma

- A student discovers a close friend cheated in an exam.
  - Value conflict: Honesty (report the cheating) vs. Loyalty (protecting a friend).
- A doctor during calamity has limited medicine supply.
  - Value conflict: Justice (fair distribution) vs. Compassion (helping the most critical patient first).
- A breadwinner loses their job and must choose between working abroad (financial support for family) vs. staying in the Philippines (being physically present for children).