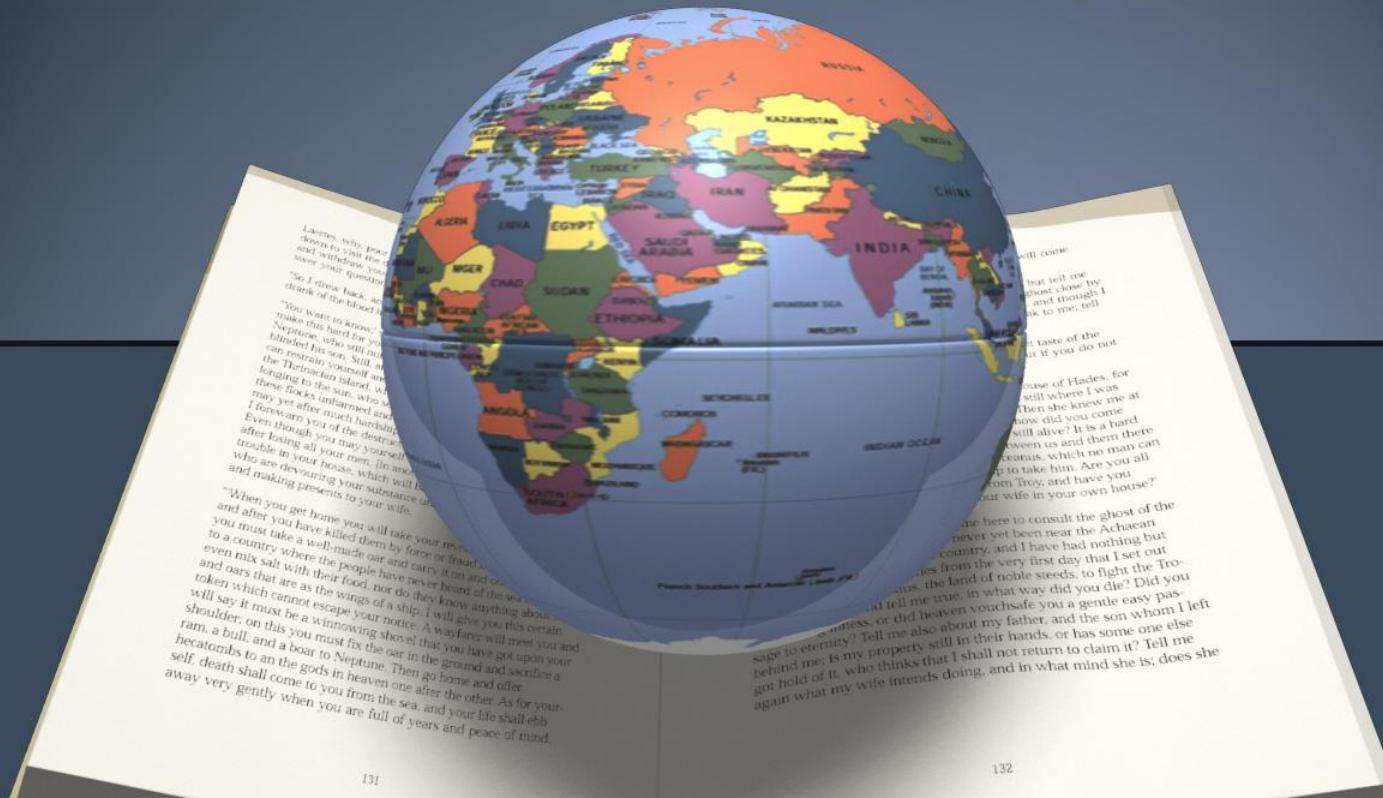


IT1218/IT1769 LAW & ETHICS OF IT

Lecture 01 : Understanding Ethics



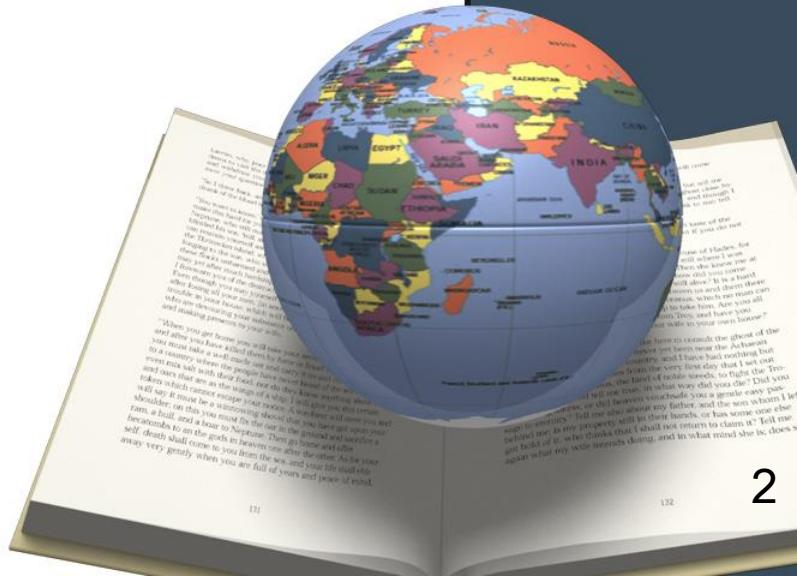
1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

Overview

- An introduction to ethics and how to resolve ethical dilemmas

Outline

- 1.1 What is ethics?
- 1.2 Understanding Right and Wrong
- 1.3 The Golden Rule
- 1.4 Ethical Relativism
- 1.5 Ethical Dilemmas
- 1.6 Ethical Reasoning

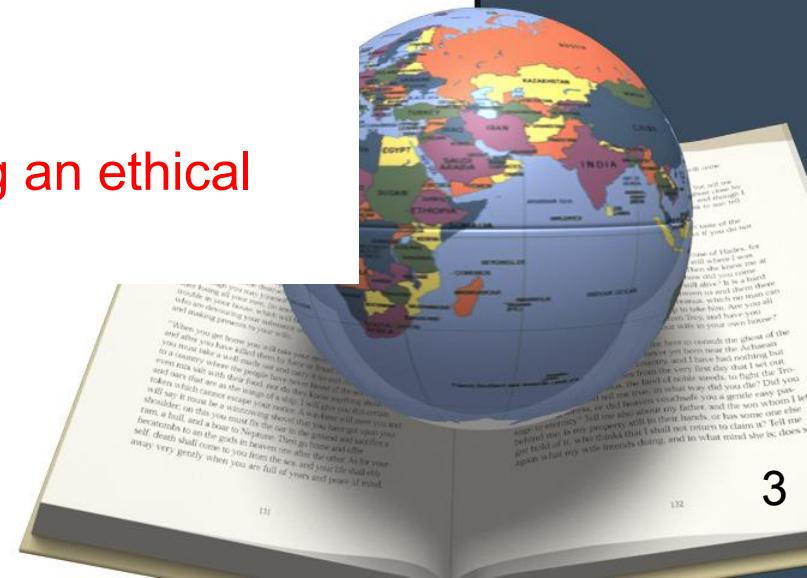


1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

Objectives

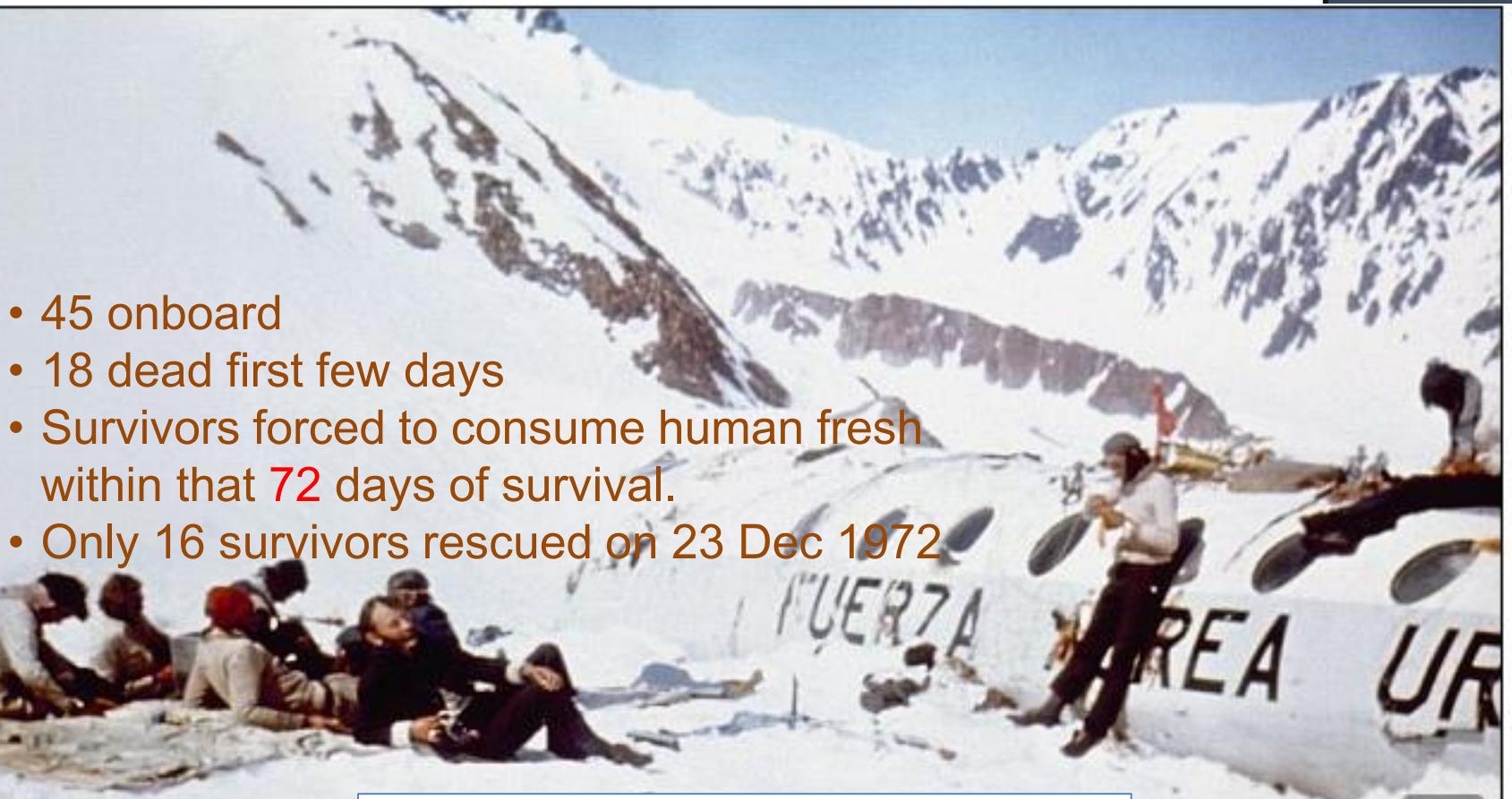
At this end of this chapter, you should be able to:

- Define Ethics
- Explain “**The Golden Rule**”
- Define ethical relativism
- Define applied ethics
- Recognise an **ethical dilemma**
- Understand the process for **resolving an ethical dilemma**





1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS



- 45 onboard
- 18 dead first few days
- Survivors forced to consume human flesh within that **72** days of survival.
- Only 16 survivors rescued on 23 Dec 1972

© LatinContent/Getty Images

Desperate: Survivors by board survived

Meet the Man Who Survived a Plane Crash by Eating Human Flesh to Stay Alive

When Pedro Algorta's plane crashed in the Andes in 1972, he had to take drastic measures to avoid death. Forty years later, what's it like to know you ate your friend's hands?

Ethical ?

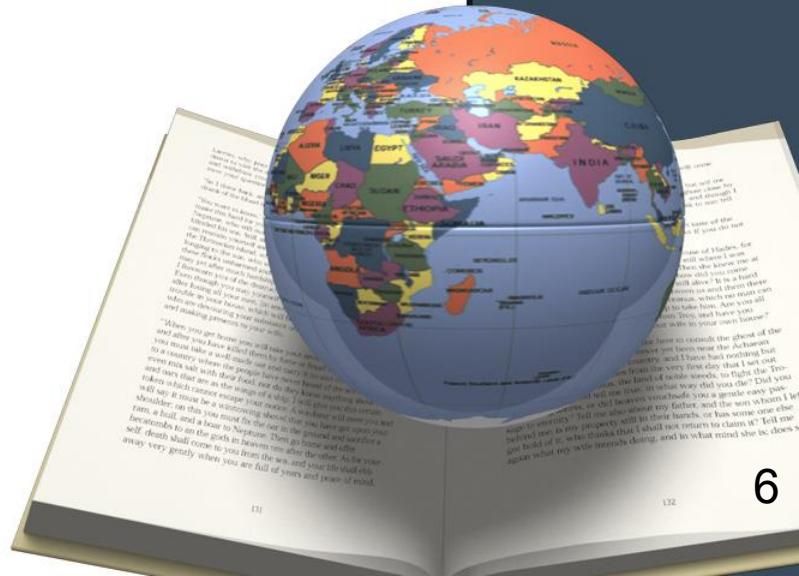
10 of the 45 on

1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.1 What is Ethics

“Ethics is about how we meet the challenge of doing the right thing when that will cost more than we want to pay.”

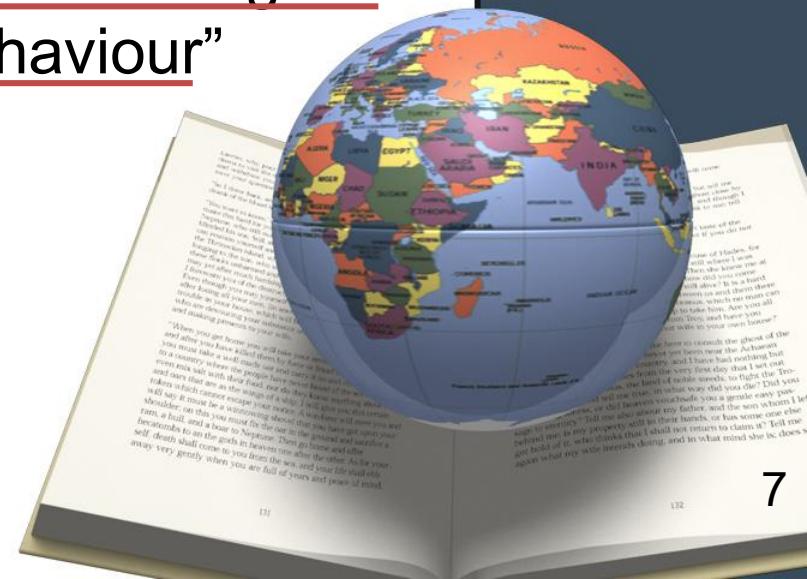
The Josephson Institute of Ethics



1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.1 What is Ethics

- The field of **ethics** is the study of how people try to live their lives according to a standard of “right” or “wrong” behaviour.
- **Moral:** “concerned with or relating to human behaviour, esp the distinction between good and bad or right and wrong behaviour”
(Collins English Dictionary)

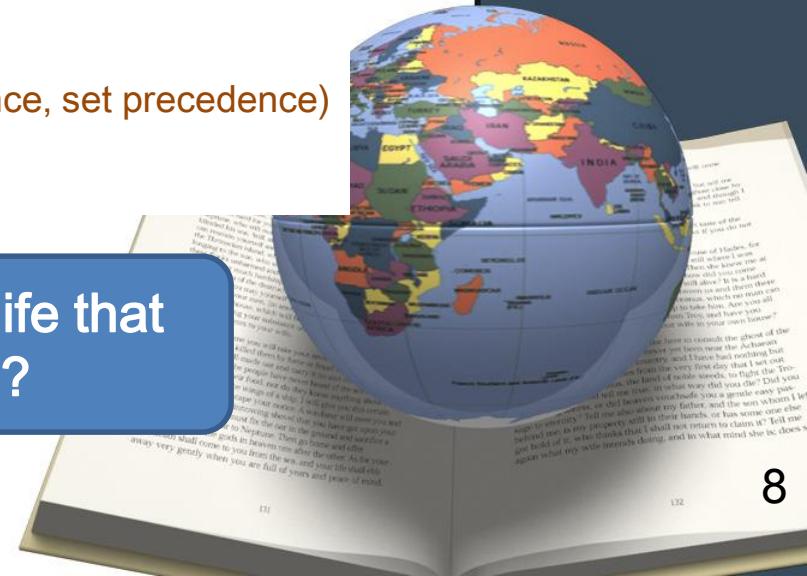


1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.2 Understanding Right and Wrong

- Moral standards are principles based on our beliefs. Beliefs come from:
 - Friends
 - Family (e.g. Family upbringing)
 - Ethnic Background (e.g. Chinese, Indian, etc.)
 - Religion (e.g. Karma)
 - School (e.g. Sense of elitism)
 - Media – TV, radio, internet (e.g. Influence, set precedence)
 - Personal role models/mentors, etc.

Describe the major influences in your life that contributed to your value system?

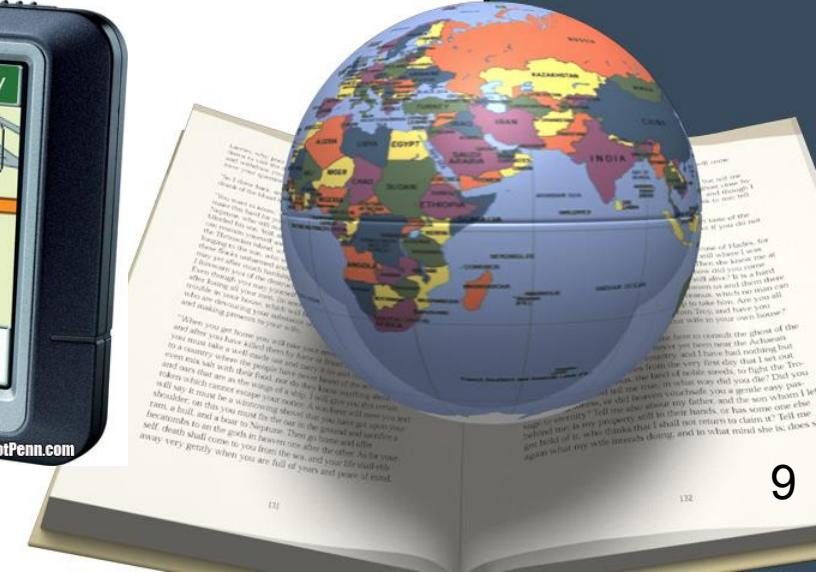


1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.2 Understanding Right and Wrong

- Your personal set of moral standard - your morality is a collection of all these influences as they are built up over your lifetime → **Moral Compass** to guide you in the choices you make.

(Individual – own Moral Compass)



1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

(Note: Individual – own brief, own values)

1.2 Understanding Right and Wrong

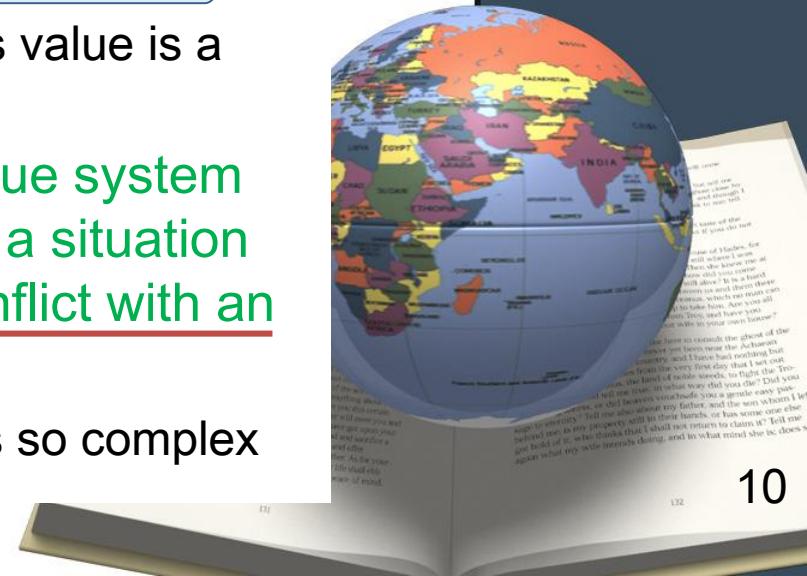
- **Value System** – A set of personal principles formalised into a code of behaviour

(e.g. Volunteer help >> hanppiness)

- An **Intrinsic Value**: a value is a good thing in itself and is pursued for its own sake, whether anything good comes from that pursuit or not. E.g. happiness, health, etc. Other e.g. of such values?

(e.g. Generosity >> Good deed) An **Instrumental Value**: pursuit of this value is a good way to reach another value.

- The greatest test of any personal value system comes when you are presented with a situation that places those values in direct conflict with an action.
 - Grey areas that make study of ethics so complex



1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.3 The Golden Rule

- “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”
 - Not everyone thinks like you, acts like you or believes in the same principles that you do.

Treat other people with the concern and kindness you would like them to show toward you. This saying has come to be called the Golden Rule.

Source: <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/do-unto-others-as-you-would-have-them-do-unto-you>

The simplest way to explain the Golden Rule is that if you want to be treated well in this world, you should treat others well. If everyone follows this philosophy, everyone will treat others well and therefore, everyone will be treated well.

Source: <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/how-good-way-explain-do-unto-others-way-you-want-425613>

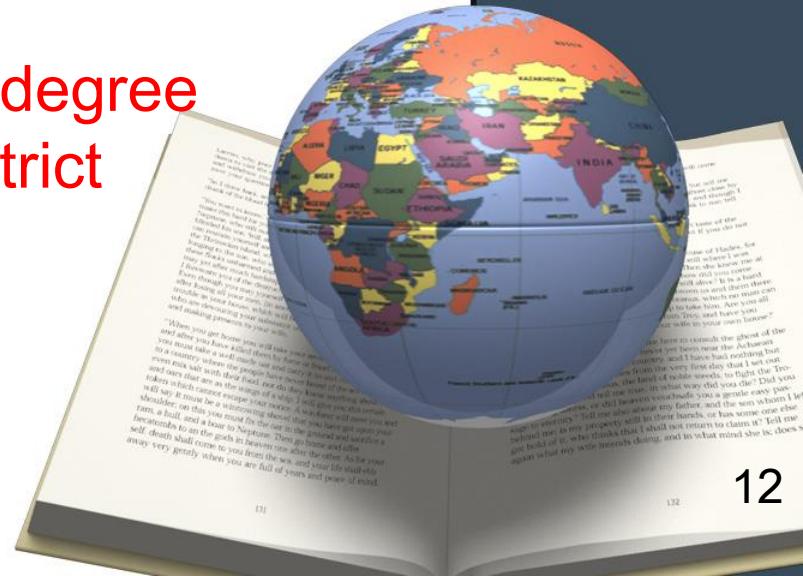
1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

(Moral value varies from person to person)

1.4 Ethical Relativism

Ethical Relativism relates to:

- traditions of your society,
 - your personal opinions and,
 - the circumstances of the present moment define your ethical principles
- Ethical relativism implies some degree of flexibility as opposed to the strict black and white rules



I'M TIRED OF PEOPLE JUDGING ME BASED ON THEIR "OBJECTIVE" ETHICAL STANDARDS. ETHICAL RELATIVISM IS OBVIOUSLY THE WAY TO GO!

HEY NESTER, WHAT YA GOT GOIN ON TODAY?

MAYBE FOR YOU! BUT I'VE DECIDED THAT EACH PERSON HAS TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT IS RIGHT. MUGGING KIDS MAY BE WRONG FOR YOU, BUT IT WORKS FOR ME! DON'T JUDGE ME!

UM.. DOESN'T THAT STRIKE YOU AS A LITTLE BIT.. UNETHICAL?

I WAS THINKING OF HEADING DOWN TO THE PLAYGROUND AND BEATING UP SOME KIDS AND STEALING THEIR LUNCHES. WANNA COME?



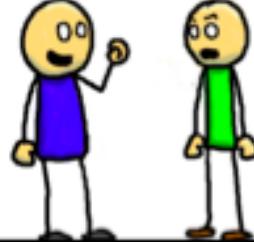
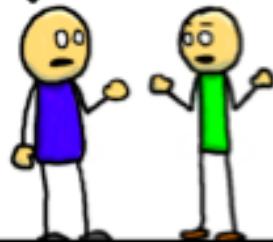
SO WHEN WE HAVE DISAGREEMENTS OVER THINGS LIKE MUGGING KIDS, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO RESOLVE THEM? HOW DO WE DECIDE WHO'S RIGHT?

WELL THAT'S THE GREAT THING GABE..

WE DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE WHO'S RIGHT, BECAUSE WE BOTH ARE! WE'RE BOTH DOING WHAT'S RIGHT **FOR US!** SO DON'T JUDGE ME!

WELL MAYBE I'VE DECIDED THAT THE RIGHT THING FOR ME IS TO BE JUDGMENTAL OF JERKS WHO BEAT UP KIDS AND STEAL THEIR FOOD.

NO GABE YOU'RE NOT LISTENING! CRITICIZING OTHER PEOPLE'S MORAL SYSTEMS IS WRONG! STOP JUDGING ME!!!



Ethical Dilemma – To save or Not to save ?



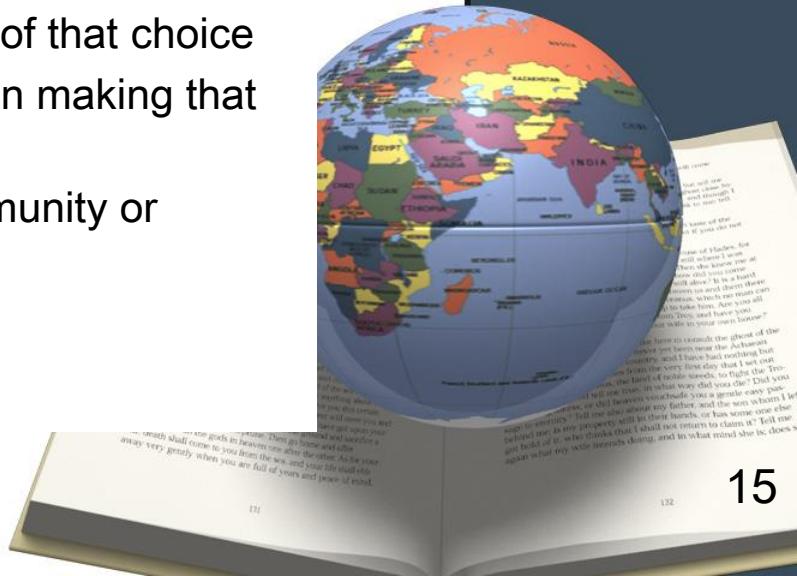
The boat is obviously overloaded. It can sink any moment.

As a boat captain, should you save more drowning people in the rough sea?

1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.5 Ethical Dilemmas

- **Applied Ethics:** study of how ethical theories are put into practices
 - **Ethical dilemmas:** situations in which there is no obvious right or wrong decision
 - Leave an equally right choice undone
 - Likely to suffer something bad as a result of that choice
 - Contradicting a personal ethical principle in making that choice
 - Abandoning an ethical value of your community or society in making that choice
 - **Choosing the “lesser of two evils”**
 - Can you live with the outcome?



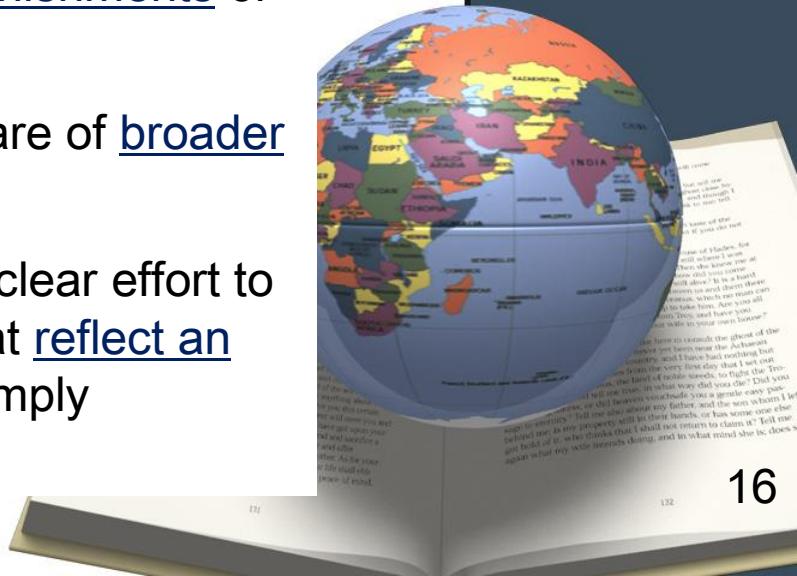
1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.6 Ethical Reasoning (in resolving Ethical dilemma)

- A process looking at the information available to us in resolving an ethical dilemma and drawing conclusions based on that information in relation to our own ethical standards.

(Lawrence Kohlberg's stages of ethical reasoning)

- Level 1 – **Preconventional**: Perceptions of right and wrong are initially directly linked to punishments or rewards
- Level 2 – **Conventional**: becomes aware of broader influences outside the family
- Level 3 – **Postconventional**: makes a clear effort to define principles and moral values that reflect an individual value system rather than simply reflecting the group position



1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.6 Ethical Reasoning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5czp9S4u26M>

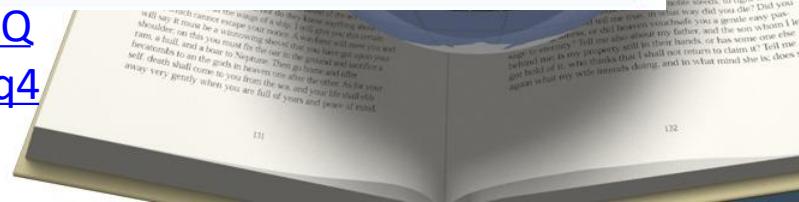
Figure 1.1

Lawrence Kohlberg's Stages of Ethical Reasoning⁵ (reasoning process developed over time)
(moving through 3-levels, 6 stages of moral development)

Level	Stage	Social Orientation
Preconventional (Punishments vs Rewards)	1	Obedience and punishment
	2	Individualism, instrumentalism, and exchange
Conventional (Broader influences outside family)	3	"Good boy/nice girl"
	4	Law and order
Post-conventional (Reflect individual value system)	5	Social contract
	6	Principled conscience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjOpu1vINIQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIMo3Gjjnq4>



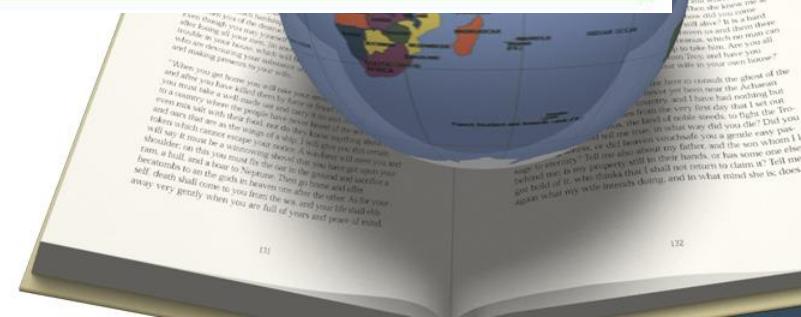
1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.6 Ethical Reasoning – Pre conventional

Figure 1.1

Lawrence Kohlberg's Stages of Ethical Reasoning⁵ (reasoning process developed over time)
(moving through 3-levels, 6 stages)

Level	Stage	Social Context
Preconventional (Punishments vs Rewards)	1	Obedience and punishment
	2	Individualism, instrumentalism, and exchange
Conventional (Broader influences outside family)	3	"Good boy/girl"
	4	Law and order
Post-conventional (Reflect individual value system)	5	Social contract
	6	Principled conscience



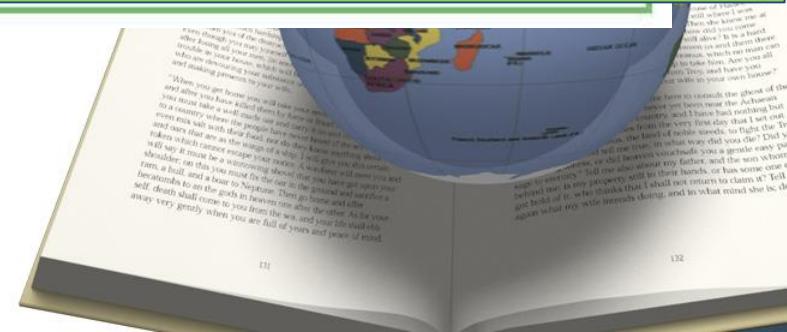
1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.6 Ethical Reasoning - Conventional

Figure 1.1

Lawrence Kohlberg's Stages of Ethical Reasoning⁵ (reasoning process developed over time)
(moving through 3-levels, 6 stages of moral development)

Level	Stage	Social Orientation
Preconventional (Punishments vs Rewards)	1	(focus on meeting the expectations/ pleasing of family members to decide it right or wrong. Stereotypical behavior & conformity to the behavior)
	2	Individualism, instrumentalism, and exchange
Conventional (Broader influences)	3	“Good boy/nice girl”
	4	Law and order
Post-conventional (Reflect individual value system)	5	Social contract
	6	Principles



1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.6 Ethical Reasoning – Post conventional

Figure 1.1

Lawrence Kohlberg's Stages of Ethical Reasoning⁵ (reasoning process developed over time)
(moving through 3-levels, 6 stages of moral development)

Level	Stage	Social Orientation
Preconventional (Punishments vs Rewards)	1	Obedience and punishment
	2	(focus on individual rights. Based on standards that has withstood scrutiny by the society by accepted principle.)
Conventional (Broader influences)	3	
	4	
Post-conventional (Reflect individual value system)	5	Social contract
	6	Principled conscience

(focus on self-chosen ethical principles with conscious choices made in life.)

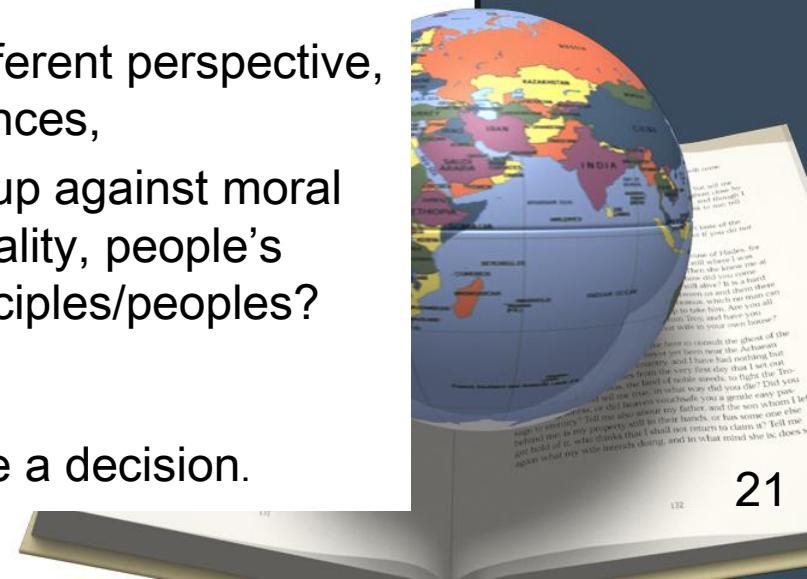


1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.7 Resolving an Ethical Dilemma

Method 1: The 3-Step Process Model

- Step 1 - Analyse the consequences
 - Who will be helped by what you do?
 - Who will be harmed?
 - What kind of benefits and harm?
 - How does all of this look over the long run as well as the short run?
- Step 2 - Analyse the actions
 - Consider all of the options from a different perspective, without thinking about the consequences,
 - Consider how the actions measure up against moral principles like honesty, fairness, equality, people's right, etc. Any conflicts between principles/peoples?
- Step 3 - Make a decision
 - Take analysis into account and make a decision.

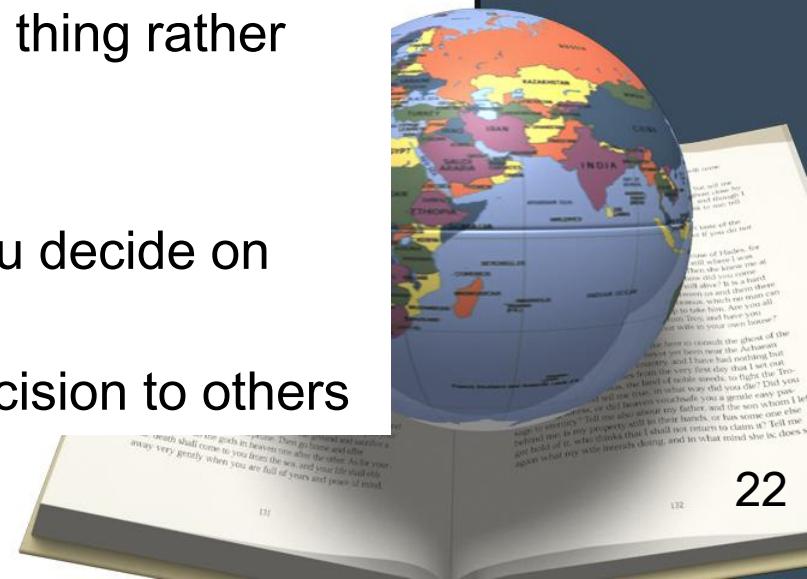


1. UNDERSTANDING ETHICS

1.7 Resolving an Ethical Dilemma

Method 2: The 8-Question Model

1. What are the facts? (People drowning. Boat overloaded)
2. What can you guess about the facts that you don't know? (Sea weather ahead. Reaction of passengers onboard)
3. What do the facts mean? (Precious lives – both onboard & on sea)
4. What does the problem look like through the eyes of the people involved? (Care for majority. Cruelty, Selfish)
5. What will happen if you choose one thing rather than another?
6. What do your feelings tell you?
7. What will you think of yourself if you decide on one thing or another?
8. Can you explain and justify your decision to others



Ethical Dilemma – To save or Not to save ?



The boat is obviously overloaded. It can sink any moment.

As a boat captain, should you save more drowning people in the rough sea?

End of Lecture 01

Q&A

- Ethics & Personal value system
 - The Golden Rule
 - Ethical relativism
 - Ethical dilemma
 - Ethical reasoning – Lawrence Kohlberg moral development
 - Resolving ethical dilemma – 3-step process, 8-questions models

