TTTT3013
COMPUTER ETHICS AND SOCIAL

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

No man is an island, entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of continent,
a part of the main

- John Donne -

PRINCIPLE AND THEORY OF ETHICS

The **ethical principles** that are often used as a **guide**

Considered ethical if **public** take similar actions to **benefit many**

Justice to others

Respect other feelings

- The philosophical **study of morality.**

- A rational examination into **people's moral beliefs** and **behavior**

  ➢ To live a good life

  ➢ To be a better person

  ➢ To do a right thing

  ➢ To socialise with others

- Concerned with what is good for **individuals** and **society.**

- They affect how people **make decisions** and **lead their lives**.

- Covers the following dilemmas:

  ➤ how to live a good life

  ➤ our rights and responsibilities

  ➤ the language of right and wrong

  ➤ moral decisions - what is good and bad?

- Our concepts of ethics have been derived from:

  ➤ religions

  ➤ philosophies

  ➤ cultures

The term is derived from the Greek word *ethos* which can mean **custom**, **habit**, **character** or **disposition**. Latin – ' Mores' means as **morale**.

Philosophers nowadays tend to classify ethical theories into:

- **Meta-ethics** deals with the **nature of moral judgement**. It looks at the origins and meaning of ethical principles.

- **Normative** ethics is concerned with the **content of moral judgements** and the criteria for what is right or wrong.

- **Applied ethics** looks at **controversial topics** like war, animal rights and capital punishment.
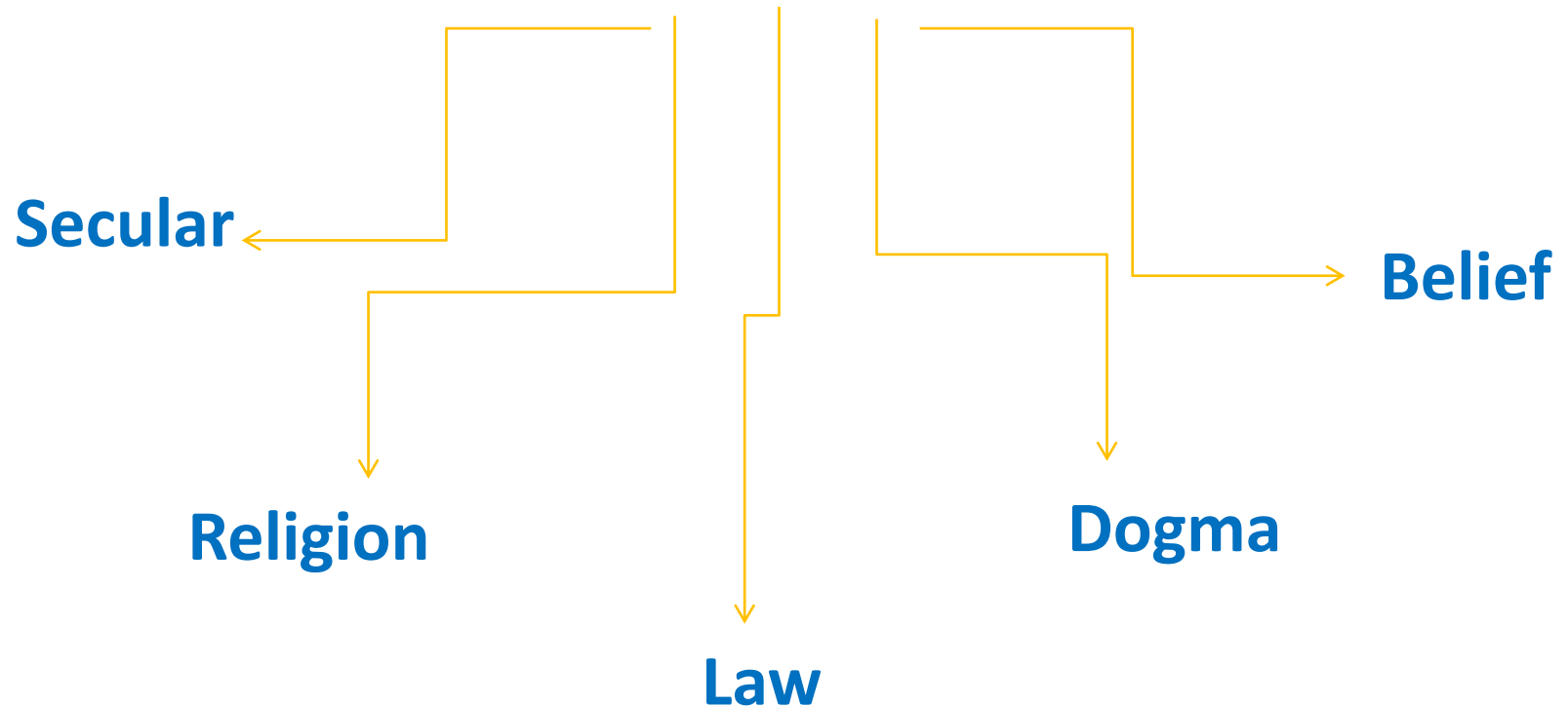
WHAT IS ITS USE?

- If ethical theories are to be **useful** in practice, they need to **affect the way human beings behave**.

- Some philosophers think that ethics does this. They argue that if a person realises that it **would be morally good** to do something then it **would be irrational for that person not to do it**.

- But human beings often behave irrationally - they follow their 'gut instinct' even when their head suggests a different course of action.

- However, ethics does provide good **tools for thinking about moral issues**.

ETHICS FROM ISLAMIC (or even other religions) PERSPECTIVE

- Known as morals (*akhlak*)

  ➢ Habits, customs and dignity, nature and description of the individual mind

- Morality is the **mental state** that propel people to do good and reject evil.

- This state of mind is divided by 2:

  ➢ **Naturally** - like feeling to simply forgive

  ➢ Through **training** and prevalence through 2 stages:

    ✓ Consideration and careful thoughts

    ✓ Practice of something good that become a common practice in life

Need human to justify if good or bad based on **principle**:

Secular

Belief

Religion

Law

Dogma

Ethics based on **reasons**, individuals are required to explain **why they have such a view.**

It gives us the opportunity to compare the ethical evaluation.

When two people give different results, we can consider the facts and the process of giving reasons or reasons underlying the decision to establish a stronger rationale.

Example:

Suppose you and I discuss moral issues in front of a group of people. You summed up the action is right while I believe it was wrong. I spontaneously asked "Why do you think it was right ?"

If you failed to give a logic reasons, you could not influence anyone => No acceptable ethical basis

Conversely, if you could clarify reasons that lead to a decision you take, you probably can convince your audience that you are right. At least you can show the fact/value that can be disputed => Ethical

- Ethics focuses on the **voluntary** and **moral choices,** made by individuals because of their need to make decisions.

  ➢ Ethics is not about forcing outside of moral realm

Example:

When you buy a car, you can make a choice of colours. Choosing a colour is not a moral realm because no benefit or harm to a other person.

You are driving a car, suddenly a pedestrian crossing the road. When trying to avoid hitting the pedestrians, you have lost control of driving consequently bumping into a pedestrian who is on the other side of the road and died. Though your actions harm others but this is not an example of ethical decision-making because your action is the result from a reaction, not a choice.

BUT,

If you lost control due to driving under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (voluntary choice to consume them before driving has affected others), thus this is the moral realm.

ETHICS SOURCE

1. Intuition

- Human experience and the **ability to know something** without thinking and studying.

- The reasoning technique is considered by some experts as valuable as the criteria of right/wrong.

- Every human being has the power of instinct that can differentiate between good and bad from observations only.

- The ability to know/identify/differentiate differs in every time and circumstance.

ETHICS SOURCE

2. Custom

- Human behavior is affected by **culture**.

  ➢ Whole way of life of a society which includes how to behave, act and think that create activities in the form of material and spiritual community.

- The feeling contains sacred thing. Tradition plays an important role in the life (e.g. celebrating the birth of customary marriage, take care of the dead)

  ➢ Ancestor's beliefs or practices which are inherited by later generations.

ETHICS SOURCE

3. Theology

- Good & bad human actions are evaluated based on **compliance with God's command.**

- There are schools of theology in Islam, Christianity , Buddhism and Hinduism.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FORMATION OF VALUES & ETHICS

The factors depend on:

- **World view**

- **Value**

- **Traditions**

- **Norms**

The FACTORS are:

Human ➡️ Good sense to differentiate from good/bad. Tend to reach the height of civilization.

Instinct ➡️ Unethical if only depends on logical reasoning. Need guidance from religion to be ethical and morally good.

The FACTORS are:

Tradition/custom → Respect/help each other promotes good ethics

Family influence → Good parenting

Influence of friends → "A man is known by the company he keeps"

The FACTORS are:

Life experience → Guilty but never be punished. May influence towards attitude and perception.

Personal value & Moral principle → Overly concerned with position and success - no matter what the effect on other people. Tolerate - care about others.

Situation factor → Know unethical but was forced or too desperate.

ETHICS versus MORAL

- **Ethics** deals with codes of conduct set in the workplace/group/organisation and **morality** is the standards that one individually set for oneself in regards to right and wrong.

- **Ethics** is a set of principles developed purposefully over time. **Morality** is something one feels intuitively.

- **Ethics** is a map of how one makes choices. **Morality** is an established code that can be used to judge behavior.

ETHICS VERSUS MORALS

E **M**

Ethics	Morals
Guiding principles of conduct of an individual or group	Principles on which one's judgments of right and wrong are based
Influenced by profession, field, organization, etc.	Influenced by society, culture and religion
Related to professional work	Not related to professional work
Uniform compared to morals	Vary according to different cultures and religions

Pediaa.com

ETHICS versus MORAL

Examples of Morals: Keep promises; Be forgiving; Do not cheat; Always tell the truth; Be generous etc.

Examples of Ethics: Truthfulness; Honesty; Loyalty; Respect; Fairness; Integrity; Professional Code of Ethics (e.g. Doctor; Lawyer; Engineer; Organisation) etc.

Examples of Conflicts between Morals and Ethics:

(A) Lawyer:
Moral – Murder is wrong and the murderer should be punished
Ethics – Need to defend the murderer (his/her client) to the best of his/her abilities (although he/she knows the client is guilty or did the murder)

(B) Doctor:
Moral – May personally believe in a very sick patient's right to die to relieve the suffering
Ethics – Will not euthanise the patient, even at the patient's request due to ethical standards for health professionals

ETHICS versus MORAL

More Examples:

Your are a politician, you use your power to free your brother (who has committed a crime) from legal consequences. This act is **immoral** because you are trying to save a culprit.

Your are the manager of a company, you simply appoint your brother as the supplier. This act is **unethical** because the supplier selection process must be transparent and unbiased.

You sell pirated products to your customers to earn more return. This act is **neither moral nor ethical** because you cheat your customers and violate your profession's code of conduct at the same time.

ETHICS THEORY

1. DESCRIPTIVE

- Discussed the **history** of the moral system that is embraced by each individual/group.

- Relatively, there are a variety of moral systems. Examples: Muslims, Christians , Buddhists and Hindus have their own self- understanding.

ETHICS THEORY

2. NORMATIVE

- **Judgemental** - criticise and make decisions on the existing system and propose a moral system that is considered the best standard or should be practised by all people.

- More practical.

- Can determine an action is right or wrong.
  - ➢ Bad = guilty
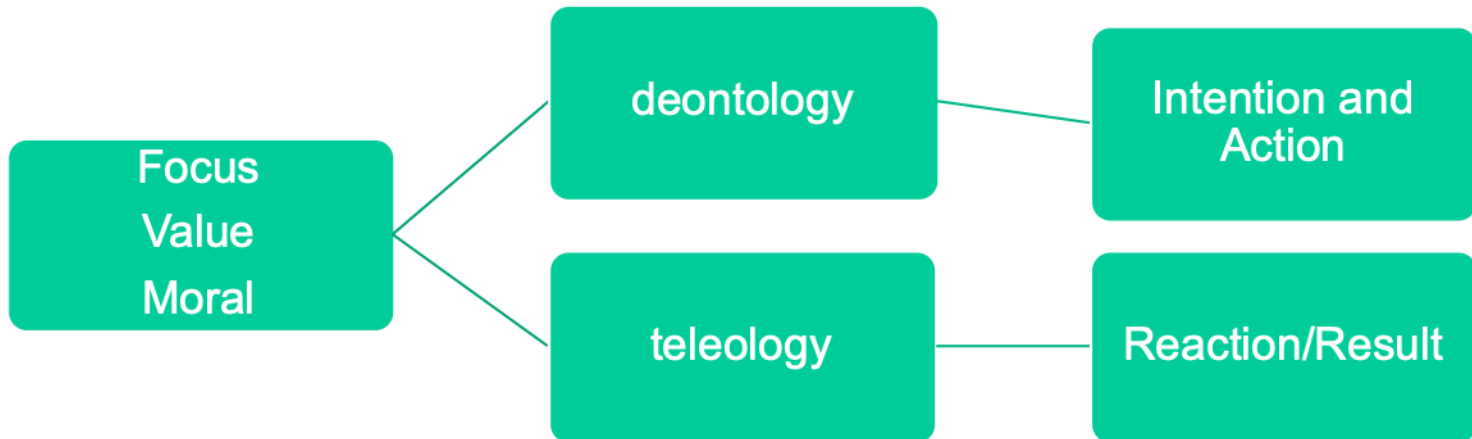
ETHICS THEORY

3. META

- Refers to something that **cannot be seen** from naked eyes.

- Focus : psychology, meta-physic, linguistic, etc.

4. INDIVIDUAL, SOCIAL, WORK, APPLIED

NORMATIVE THEORY

There are many theories in normative ethics:
- **Deontological** theory (based on the individual)
- **Teleological** theory (based on the impact of such actions)

Focus Value Moral	→	deontology	—	Intention and Action
	→	teleology	—	Reaction/Result

Intention/Action	Right	Wrong
Right	Intention Right / Action Right	Intention Right / Action Wrong
Wrong	Intention Wrong / Action Right	Intention Wrong / Action Wrong

Example:

1. Intention Right / Action Right
- Software Entrepreneur wants to increase computer literacy (Intention: **Right**)
- Software Entrepreneur sells the software with affordable price (Action: **Right**)

2. Intention Right / Action Wrong
- Software Entrepreneur wants to increase computer literacy (Intention: **Right**)
- Software Entrepreneur sells the pirated version software (Action: **Wrong**)

3. Intention Wrong / Action Right
- Software Entrepreneur wants to increase computer literacy to get gov/royal recognition (Intention: **Wrong**)
- Software Entrepreneur does charities for attention/publicity (Action: **Right**)

4. Intention Wrong / Action Wrong
- Software Entrepreneur sabotages the efforts to increase computer literacy (Intention: **Wrong**)
- Software Entrepreneur sells the software with high price (Action: **Wrong**)

TYPES OF ETHICAL APPROACH

1. Teleology (Result)

- Ethics goal. What good is right, right is usually good. GOOD actions produce good result.

- The term comes from the Greek theology which is ' telos ' which means after, after, or later.

- Control human ethics to be unethical/harmful based on the **reaction or result**. If true produce happiness, BUT wrong may cause misery.

- These principles provide a justification that the electronic monitoring of the invasion of privacy is justified even inhibit freedom.

TYPES OF ETHICAL APPROACH

2. DEONTOLOGY (Responsibility)

- Special emphasis on the **relationship between duty and the morality** of human actions.

- The word deontology derives from the Greek words for duty (*deon*) and science (or study) of (*logos*).

- An action is considered morally good because of some **characteristics of the action itself**, not because the product of the action is good.

- At least some acts are morally obligatory regardless of their consequences for human welfare. Descriptive of such ethics are such expressions as "Duty for duty's sake," "Virtue is its own reward,"

DEONTOLOGY versus TELEOLOGY APPROACH

- **Deontology** (duty/intention) is an approach to ethics which adheres to the theory that an **end does not justify the means** while **Teleology** (result) is an approach to ethics that adheres to the theory that the **end always justifies the means**.

- **Deontology** is also known as **duty-based ethics** while **Teleology** is known as **results-oriented ethics**.

- **Deontology** adheres to the Golden Rule which is "to do unto others what you want them to do unto you" while **Teleology** does not; rather, it is also referred to as the greatest happiness principle because it justifies an action if it produces the greatest happiness and least amount of pain.

DEONTOLOGY versus TELEOLOGY APPROACH

- **Deontology** teaches **to be fair** and not to use others for selfish reasons while **Teleology** teaches about **doing whatever actions** produce a result that is agreeable to a person.

- **Teleology** examines **past experiences** in order to predict the results of a present action while **Deontology** follows what is morally right based on **the values that are instilled** in each person.

Example:

Abu steals from the rich to help the poor

Determine the ethical decision making from two approaches:

Approach 1: Teleology theory

- Abu does the **RIGHT** thing because he wants to help the poor
- Based on consequence/result.
- Result: The **POOR IS HAPPY**.

Approach 2: Deontology theory

- Abu is **WRONG** because he takes from others without permission.
- The action is wrong because Abu steals from other.
- This is **LEGALLY WRONG** too.

ETHICS from WESTERN SECULAR

Human Action based on:

Deontological

Action-oriented

Non-consequentialist

Process of action

(Immanuel Kent, Abraham Maslow, Carol Gilligan, Lawrence Kohlbergh)

Teolological

Result oriented

Consequentialist

Effects and consequences from the action

(Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill)

ETHICS versus LAWS

Example:

Law Perspective

	VALID ACTION	INVALID ACTION
ETHICAL	I Police arrest sellers of pirated software	II Copy files
UNETHICAL	III Do not respect intellectual property of others	IV reveal the client password to the public

Ethics Perspective

MORALS versus ETHICS versus LAWS

- **Morals** – One's personal beliefs about right and wrong.

- **Ethics** – Standards or codes of behaviour expected of an individual by a group.

- **Law** – System of rules that tells us what we can and cannot do:

  ➢ Laws are enforced by a set of institutions

  ➢ Legal acts conform to the law

  ➢ Moral acts conform to what an individual believes is the right belief of right and wrong.

Source: Ethics in IT (Reynolds, 2014)

ETHICS DOCTRINE

Doctrine	Description
Nihilism	Abandon values and knowledge Life is meaningless Negative, cynical, pessimist
Hedonism	Pleasures is the ultimate goal of life
Existentialism	Philosophy concerned with finding self and the meaning of life through free will, choice, and personal responsibility.

ETHICS DOCTRINE

1. Nihilism - Abandoning Values and Knowledge

Nihilism derives its name from the Latin root *nihil,* meaning **nothing**, *that which does not exist.* This same root is found in the verb "annihilate" -- to bring to nothing, to destroy completely.

Nihilism is the belief which:

- labels **all values as worthless**, therefore, nothing can be known or communicated.
- associates itself with extreme **pessimism** and a radical **skepticism**, having **no loyalties**.
- choosing to believe in Nothingness involves a high price. An individual may choose to "feel" rather than think, exert their "will to power" than pray, thankful or obey God.

Ethical nihilism (moral nihilism) rejects the possibility of absolute moral or ethical values. Good and evil are vague, and related values are simply the result of social and emotional pressures.

ETHICS DOCTRINE

2. Hedonism

- The term is derived from the Greek word ' Hedon ' means **pleasure** . Hedonists believe that the highest level of moral principles is **fun**.

- A movement that seeks **pleasure**. It believes pleasure is the highest good of moral values or resources.

- It is a **loyalty**, particularly in serving the needs of ourselves and **find fun and happiness as one way of life**.

- Believe main goal in life is to **follow the rules**. Guidance can control the passions in any action.

ETHICS DOCTRINE

3. Existentialism

- Existentialism in the broader sense is a 20th century philosophy that is centered upon the **analysis of existence** and of the way humans find themselves existing in the world.

- The notion is that **humans exist first** and then each individual spends a lifetime **changing their essence or nature**.

- In simpler terms, existentialism is a philosophy concerned with **finding self and the meaning of life through free will**, **choice, and personal responsibility**.

ETHICS DOCTRINE

3. Existentialism

- The belief is that people are **searching to find out who and what they are throughout life** as they make choices based on their experiences, beliefs, and outlook.

- Personal choices become unique without the necessity of an objective form of truth.

- An existentialist believes that a person **should be forced to choose and be responsible without the help of laws, ethnic rules, or traditions**.

ETHICS DOCTRINE

3. Existentialism

Existentialism **takes into consideration** the underlying concepts:

- Human free will

- Human nature is chosen through life choices

- A person is best when struggling against their individual nature, fighting for life

- Decisions are not without stress and consequences

- There are things that are not rational

- Personal responsibility and discipline is crucial

- Society is unnatural and its traditional religious and secular rules are arbitrary

- Worldly desire is futile

ETHICS DOCTRINE

3. Existentialism

Existentialism is broadly defined in a variety of concepts and there can be no one answer as to what it is, yet it **does not support** any of the following:

- wealth, pleasure, or honor make the good life

- social values and structure control the individual

- accept what is and that is enough in life

- science can and will make everything better

- people are basically good but ruined by society or external forces

- "I want my way, now!" or "It is not my fault!" mentality

WHY ETHICS IS IMPORTANT?

Ethics became a good booster

Man unhappy and uneasy if not well behaved

Good behavior perfectly fits human nature

No ethical practice cause war, oppresion, robbery, stealing, fraud

People want kindness, peace, happiness and justice

Human is perfect & successful IF wealthy of material and ethical (moral)
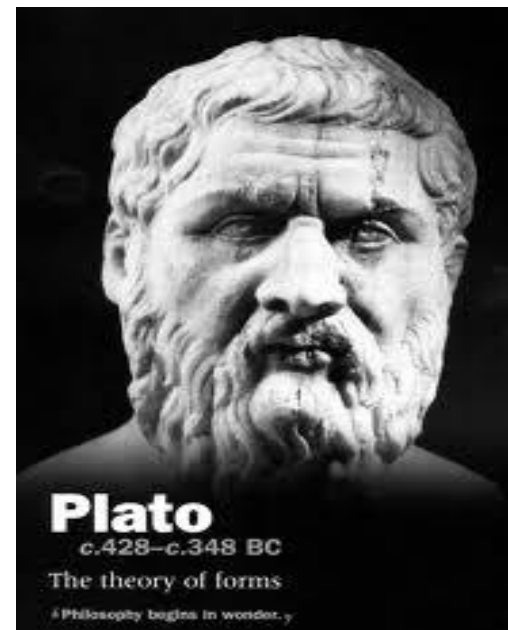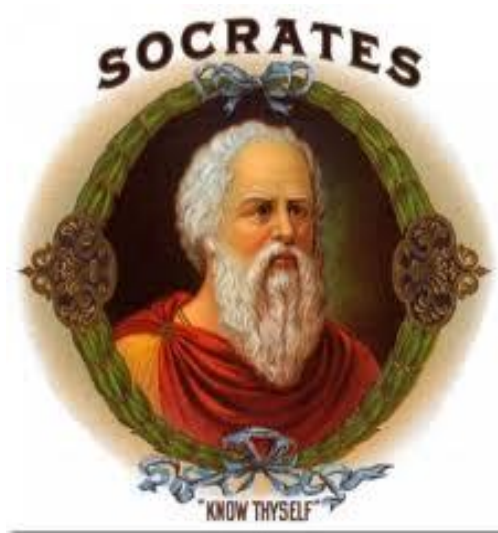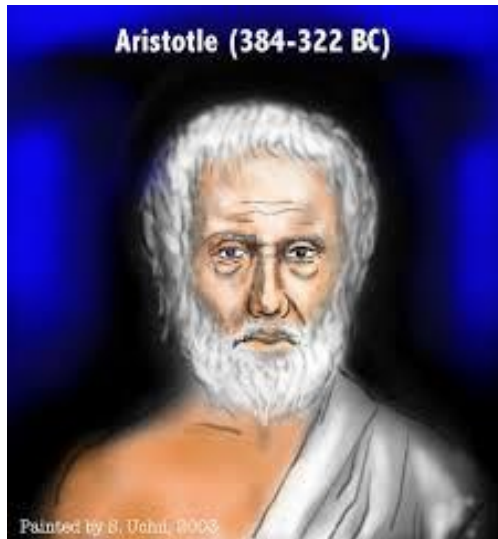
Ethics ensures the viability (survival) of human civilization

Ethics highlight humility

FINAL NOTE

People who is unethical is selfish!