Lecture Notes

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1 Events

- Review Syllabus

- Discuss Philosophy Powerpoint

2 Notes

An argument has two parts:

- Conclusion: What is being argued.

- Premises: The defense of the conclusion.

- Watch out for background info. Support for the premises, but not necessary.

Standard Form:

- Condense items into a list featuring the premises and the conclusion.

Types of Ethics

- Normative Ethics: Questions how we should live our lives.

- Applied Ethics: Concerned with the application of normative ethical principles to moral problems.

- Metaethics: Concerned with the nature of moral thought and talk. Metaethicists ask what morality is.

  - Metaphysics: What exists and what are those things like?
  - Moral Metaphysics: Are there moral facts? If so, what makes them true? If not, why do people think there are?
  - Epistemology: What is knowledge? When is a belief justified?
  - Moral Epistemology? How do we figure out what actions are right?
  - Philosophy of Language: In virtue of what do words mean things?

Realism vs. Anti-Realism   Moral realism is a view about moral metaphysics. It is usually said to consist of three claims. Moral realism is the same as moral objectivism.

1. Moral judgements are truth-apt. (Cognitivism)

2. Some moral judgements are true. (Success Theory)

3. Some moral judgements are objectively true. (Objectivism)

Moral Anti-realism is the view that there are no objective moral facts.

- Deny objectivism. Moral facts can be true or false, but they are not objectively so.

Anti-realists can disagree with one or all of the three claims made from moral realists.

2.1 Error Theory

V Cognitivism

V Success Theory

X Objectivism

There is no inherent good or bad. Moral judgements can not have a true/false value.

2.2 Categorical vs Hypothetical Imperatives

Hypothetical Imperatives: If you want X, you should do Y.
Categorical Imperatives: You should do Y.

3 Normative Ethics