



THEORIES OF RIGHT

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
School of Information Studies

ETHICS

Ancient Greeks, ethics -> character

Modern times, ethics -> action



PILLARS OF ETHICS





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WHAT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

Theories of right

End-based theories

- For example, utilitarianism, consequentialism

Duty-based theories

- For example, categorical imperative



<https://goo.gl/G0DJnh>

ETHICAL THEORIES: HEDONISM

Hedonism posits that the principal ethic is maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain.



ETHICAL THEORIES: UTILITARIANISM

The right thing to do is what produces the greatest good for the greatest number.

ETHICAL THEORIES: CONSEQUENTIALISM

Consequentialism (or teleological ethics) is an approach to ethics that argues that the morality of an action is contingent on the action's outcome or consequence.



**“The time is always right
to do what is right.”**

Martin Luther King, Jr.



**DEONTOLOGY (OR DEONTOLOGICAL
ETHICS) IS AN APPROACH TO ETHICS
THAT FOCUSES ON THE RIGHTNESS OR
WRONGNESS OF ACTIONS
THEMSELVES.**

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