

CS 3001 Notes

CS Ethics Notes Based On Lectures/Lecture Slides

Krish Katariya

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1. Virtue Ethics

Virtue ethics can address the questions of how one should live, what kind of person one should become, and even what one should do in certain scenarios. Would a good person perform this action under this virtue?

Definition 1.1

Virtues: behaviors showing high standards. The qualities or states of character that find expression in morally good actions and morally good purposes.

Definition 1.2

Vices: the opposite from virtues. A vice is a character trait that prevents a human being from flourishing or being truly happy

Usually, there are two vices for every virtue

Note 1.1

Virtue ethics pays particular attention to the agent as well as the action and the consequences of the action. This touches on social contract theory, utilitarianism, and kantianism. *A good person does the right thing at the right time for the right reason.*

Pros

- In many situations it makes more sense to focus on virtues than on obligations or rights
- Personal relationships can be morally relevant to decision making
- There are no irresolvable moral dilemmas
- Recognizes the importance of having a say in living a moral life

Cons

- Different people may have quite different conceptions of what human flourishing is
- Virtue ethics cannot be used to guide government policy
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2. Internal Realism

- How do we know there is a desk here?
 - We are all trapped in our subjective perceptions of the world around us, but our subjective perceptions oddly agree

3. Evidentialism

Definition 3.1

Evidentialism: all beliefs must be supported by evidence

- Some beliefs are basic and justified, such as things you learn through a reliable sense

4. Reliabilism

Definition 4.1

Reliabilism: a belief is reliable if it is the result of a reliable cognitive process.

- A *reliable* process is one that generally leads to the correct outcomes