

# PHILOSOPHY 105

SPRING 2017

[PHIL105.COLINMCLEAR.NET](http://phil105.colinmclear.net)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Consequentialism
  - Normative Ethical Theory
  - Consequentialism
  - Utilitarianism
  - Utilitarianism in Action
  - Problems for Utilitarianism

# CONSEQUENTIALISM

# NORMATIVE ETHICAL THEORY

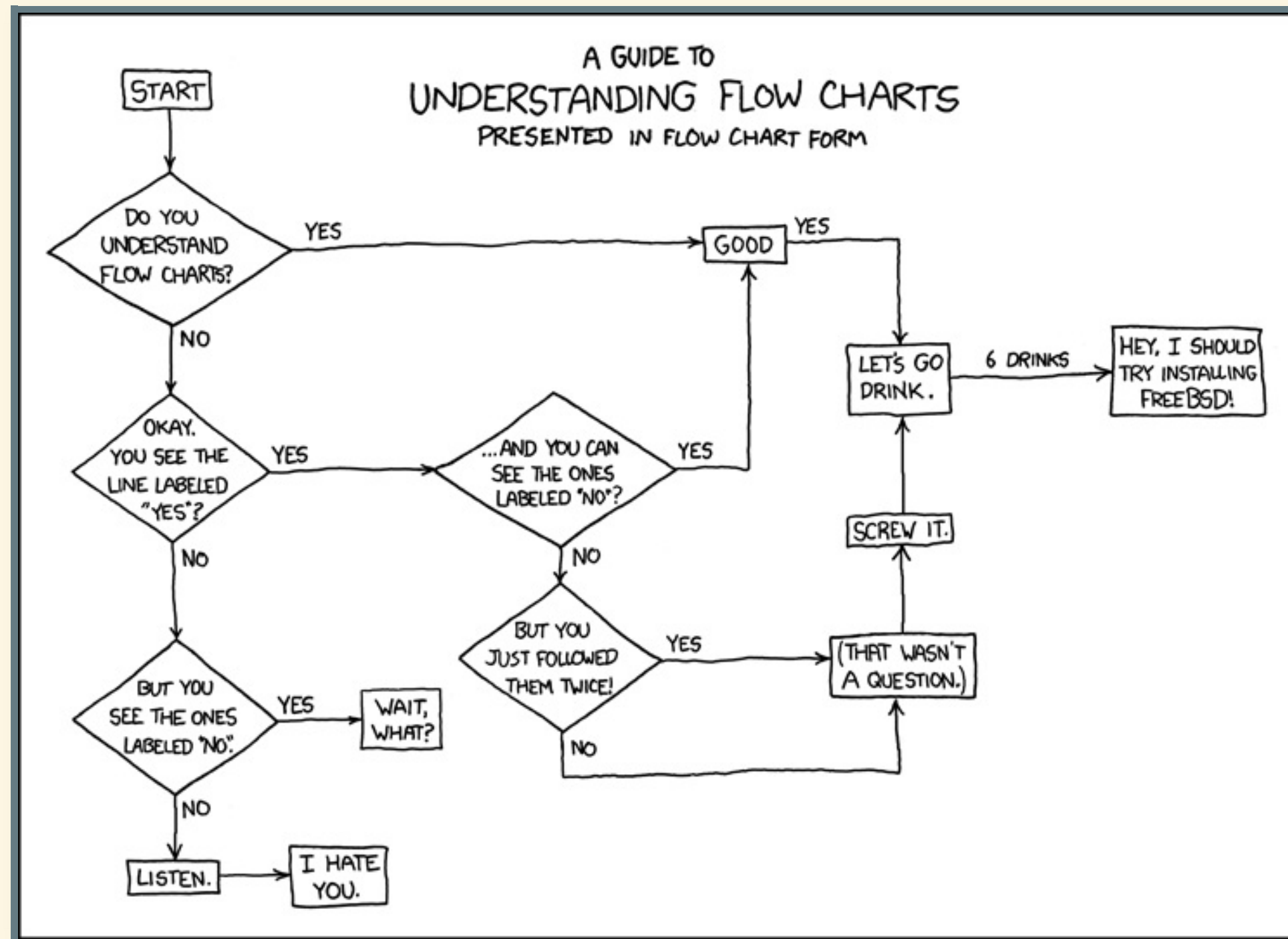
- Normative ethics provides answers to normative questions (questions about how one *ought* to act)
  - Is it bad to lie?
  - Is it wrong to steal?
  - What should I do?
    - What is good/bad for me or others to do?
    - What is im/permissible for me or others to do?

## Normative Theory

A theoretical framework for answering normative questions that articulates (the) general principles concerning moral evaluation

## DECISION PROCEDURE

- A decision procedure articulates a set of necessary and sufficient rules by which one decides what to do



## EXPLANATORY THEORY

- Articulates criteria that specify whether an act or state of affairs is good or right

# CONSEQUENTIALISM

- Whether an act is morally right depends on the consequences of that act



# UTILITARIANISM

Two components of utilitarianism:

- Act Consequentialism
- Hedonism

## ACT CONSEQUENTIALISM

- An act is morally right if and only if that act maximizes the good
  - An act is good just in case the total amount of good for all minus the total amount of bad for all is greater than the net amount brought about by any other act available to the agent on that occasion

## HEDONISM

- Pleasure is the only intrinsic good and that pain is the only intrinsic bad

# UTILITARIANISM IN ACTION

- Sample cases
  - Lying
  - Animal treatment

# PROBLEMS FOR UTILITARIANISM

- Four potential problems
  - Ignores the seperateness of persons
  - "Utility monsters"
  - Self-effacing
  - Overly demanding

