

# **BASICS OF ETHICS (H02)**

**YUSUF INDOREWALA**

**[ON THE FRONT]**

Name in Full

**[ON THE BACK]**

Major intellectual influences

Favorite Books

# CLASS RULES

1. No electronic devices
2. If you have something to say, tell everyone!
3. Class begins 5 minutes after the scheduled time
4. Read all the assigned texts!

**WHAT IS ETHICS?**

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**Ethics** has something to do with **consciously thinking about our moral judgments** and assessing if they are **reasonable and consistent**.

...

**Ethics is that branch of philosophy which deals with questions concerning the nature of value (or principles) in matters of human conduct.**

**MORALISTS**

# MORALISTS

- A religious preacher



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- A religious preacher
- Grandma

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- A religious preacher
- Grandma
- M.K.Gandhi

# HOW PHILOSOPHERS DO ETHICS?

By formulating a theory to *explain* the fundamental nature of that which is good, and to say why those moral principles commonly used to evaluate human conduct follow (or don't follow) from this theory.

## PHILOSOPHERS TRY TO

1. Explicate the nature of moral judgments in general
2. Provide a criteria for determining what is ethically right or wrong
3. Analyze the grounds or reasons we have for holding them correct
4. Study the nature of ends and values and why they should be pursued.

The first corresponds with a branch of ethics called **metaethics**. Second and third correspond with the branch of ethics called **normative ethics**. The fourth corresponds with **value theory**.

**WHY ETHICS?**

**TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUCH AS**

## **TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUCH AS**

- How to be a good human being?

## TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUCH AS

- How to be a good human being?
- How should I act?



## TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUCH AS

- How to be a good human being?
- How should I act?
- How to live a good life?

## TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUCH AS

- How to be a good human being?
- How should I act?
- How to live a good life?
- What makes something right or wrong?

## **FOUNDATIONAL ASSUMPTION OF ETHICS**

That we are free agents. We choose how we act.

# THE ROLE OF ETHICS:

*[The task before] ethics is to do its best to find through the philosophical study of the subject the common element in the two sets of diametrically opposed feelings which exist in man, and thus to help mankind find a synthesis, and not a compromise between the two. In one set are the feelings which induce man to subdue other men in order to utilize them for his individual ends, while those in the other set induce human beings to unite for attaining common ends by common effort: the first answering to that fundamental need of human nature – struggle, and the second representing another equally fundamental tendency – the desire of unity and mutual sympathy.*

— Peter Kropotkin (1842 - 1921)

# EVALUATION

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**2 CREDITS : 13 LECTURES**

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Participation	5
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Quiz	10
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Pop Quiz	10
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End Semester	25
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