

SUMMARY OF TYPES OF ETHICS

Ethical relativism

- * Often disparaging, what's ethical depends on the individual, the group, the culture, tradition, background
- * E.g., Student caught breaking into computer says that, at another university where he came from, it was accepted and encouraged
- * Argument against: Just because one class of individuals does something, doesn't mean it's right

Intuitionism

You just know what is right and what is wrong

The Golden Rule

<http://www.committeeforthegoldenrule.org>

Utilitarianism

- * One must act to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number
- * Places public good over private good
- * Possible harmful to minorities and individuals, sacrificed for the majority
- * The ends justify the means

The purpose of morality is to make the world a better place.

Morality is about producing good consequences, not having good intentions

We should do whatever will bring the most benefit to all of humanity.

Deontological theories

- * It's about moral obligation
- * It's about actions (not ends)
- * Rejects acts that harm minorities, individuals
- * Stems from Immanuel Kant Kantian Ethics – Always treat persons as ends-in-themselves and never merely as means to your ends. The right moral rules are those which people would freely choose to have govern them. A maxim is **universal** if and only if you could effectively achieve your goal by acting on it in a world where everyone else was pursuing the same goal by acting similarly in similar circumstances
- * Opposite of utilitarianism
- * "Do what is right, though the world should perish."

The following ethics types are linked to Wikipedia for reference:

- [1 Meta-ethics](#)
- [2 Normative ethics](#)
- [3 Descriptive ethics](#)
- [4 Applied ethics](#)
 - [4.1 Specific questions](#)
 - [4.2 Ethics in politics and economics](#)
 - [4.3 Environmental ethics](#)
 - [4.4 Ethics in the professions](#)
 - [4.4.1 Ethics in health care](#)
 - [4.4.2 Ethics in psychology](#)
 - [4.5 Legal ethics](#)