

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Ethics 101: Just the Basics, Please</i>	7
Chapter 1: Approaching Ethics: What Is It and Why Should You Care?	9
Chapter 2: Butting Heads: Is Ethics Just a Matter of Opinion?	19
<i>Part II: Uncovering the Roots of Ethics</i>	35
Chapter 3: Human Nature and Ethics: Two Big Questions	37
Chapter 4: Exploring Connections between Ethics, Religion, and Science	55
Chapter 5: Seeing Ethics as Harmful: Three Famous Criticisms	73
<i>Part III: Surveying Key Ethical Theories</i>	93
Chapter 6: Being an Excellent Person: Virtue Ethics	95
Chapter 7: Increasing the Good: Utilitarian Ethics	121
Chapter 8: Doing Your Duty: The Ethics of Principle.....	143
Chapter 9: Signing on the Dotted Line: Ethics as Contract	171
Chapter 10: The Golden Rule: Common Sense Ethics	187
Chapter 11: Turning Down the Testosterone: Feminist Care Ethics	207
<i>Part IV: Applying Ethics to Real Life</i>	227
Chapter 12: Dealing with Mad Scientists: Biomedical Ethics	229
Chapter 13: Protecting the Habitat: Environmental Ethics	247
Chapter 14: Serving the Public: Professional Ethics	269
Chapter 15: Keeping the Peace: Ethics and Human Rights	281
Chapter 16: Getting It On: The Ethics of Sex	299
Chapter 17: Looking Out for the Little Guy: Ethics and Animals	313
<i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i>	329
Chapter 18: Ten Famous Ethicists and Their Theories.....	331
Chapter 19: Ten Ethical Dilemmas Likely to Arise in the Future	337
<i>Index</i>	343

Table of Contents

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
What You're Not to Read	3
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized	3
Part I: Ethics 101: Just the Basics, Please	4
Part II: Uncovering the Roots of Ethics	4
Part III: Surveying Key Ethical Theories	4
Part IV: Applying Ethics to Real Life	4
Part V: The Part of Tens	5
Icons Used in This Book	5
Where to Go from Here	6

Part I: Ethics 101: Just the Basics, Please **7**

Chapter 1: Approaching Ethics: What Is It and Why Should You Care? **9**

Knowing the Right Words: Ethical Vocabulary	9
Focusing on should and ought	10
Avoiding the pitfall of separating ethics and morality	11
Putting law in its proper place	11
Requiring, forbidding, permitting:	
The most useful ethical vocabulary	12
Identifying Two Arguments for Being Ethical	13
Why be ethical 101: It pays off!	13
Why be ethical 201: You'll live a life of integrity	14
Committing Yourself to the Ethical Life	15
Taking stock: Know thyself	16
Building your moral framework	17
Seeing where you need to go	17

Chapter 2: Butting Heads: Is Ethics Just a Matter of Opinion? **19**

Subjectivism: Basing Ethics on Each Person's Opinion	20
Right for me and wrong for you: The subjectivist position	20
Recognizing that subjectivism can't handle disagreement	21
They're always right: Subjectivists make bad houseguests	23
Determining what subjectivism gets right	24

Cultural Relativism: Grounding Ethics in the Group's Opinion.....	25
Discovering what it means to be a cultural relativist	25
Understanding why cultural relativism is always so popular.....	26
Living in many worlds: Some problems with cultural relativism.....	27
Looking at cultural relativism's lack of respect for tolerance	28
Noting cultural relativism's successes.....	30
Emotivism: Seeing Ethics as a Tool of Expression	30
Expressing yourself: Booing and cheering in ethics	31
Arguing emotionally: A problem for emotivists.....	32
Getting motivation right: A victory for emotivism	33

Part II: Uncovering the Roots of Ethics..... 35

Chapter 3: Human Nature and Ethics: Two Big Questions 37

Considering Human Nature and Ethics.....	37
Examining the idea of human nature.....	38
Linking human nature and ethics	39
Connecting Ethics and Freedom.....	41
Hard determinists: You're not free!.....	42
Finding freedom: Examining two other theories	44
Human Nature: Good, Bad, or Neutral?	47
Human nature is disposed to the good.....	47
Human nature disposes you to be bad	49
Human nature is neither good nor bad.....	52

Chapter 4: Exploring Connections between Ethics, Religion, and Science 55

Clarifying the Relationship between God, Religion, and Ethical Codes	55
Knowing the difference between God and religion	56
Contemplating the diversity of religious ethical codes	57
Because God Said So: Understanding Divine Command Theory.....	59
God's authority: Considering why God gets to be in charge	59
Figuring out what happens when divine commands conflict	61
Plato's big challenge: Questioning what makes something ethical ...	62
The Age of Science: Figuring Out If Ethics Can Exist in a Secular World.....	64
Staying silent on the spiritual.....	64
Defining ethics in a materialistic world	65
Establishing good behavior without heaven or hell	66
Evolution and Ethics: Rising Above the Law of the Jungle	68
Seeing how selfish genes can promote unselfish behavior	68
Noting the irrelevance of (most) evolutionary theory to ethics ...	70

Chapter 5: Seeing Ethics as Harmful: Three Famous Criticisms 73

Understanding the Challenges to Ethics	73
Bias-based arguments	74
Status-based arguments.....	75
Integrity-based arguments.....	76

Nietzsche: Explaining the Need to Avoid an Ethics of Weakness..... 77
 Seeing self-creation as the path to integrity..... 78
 Eyeing traditional ethics as weakness 80
 Examining Nietzsche’s new idea: The ethics of inner strength 81
 Kierkegaard: Too Much Reliance on Ethics Keeps You from God 82
 Overcoming your despair 82
 The Abraham dilemma: When God tells you to kill your son 83
 Embracing a God who’s beyond ethics..... 85
 Taoists: Ethics Isn’t Natural 86
 Putting some yin and yang into your life..... 86
 Revealing how traditional virtue is unnatural..... 88
 Highlighting the Taoist virtue of simplicity..... 89

Part III: Surveying Key Ethical Theories 93

Chapter 6: Being an Excellent Person: Virtue Ethics. 95

The Lowdown on Virtue Ethics: The Importance of Character..... 96
 Discovering why character matters 96
 Connecting character with action 97
 Seeing character as a way of life..... 97
 Understanding What Virtues Are 98
 Virtues are habits toward goodness 98
 Breaking down virtues 100
 Focusing on the Good 101
 Grasping the nature of “the good”..... 101
 Virtuous living leads to human flourishing 102
 Aristotle and Confucius: Two Notions of the Good Life 104
 Aristotle’s view of the human good..... 104
 Confucius’s view of the human good 106
 Virtue: The middle path between extremes 108
 Figuring Out How to Acquire Virtues..... 109
 Can virtues really be taught?..... 109
 Confucius: Virtue starts at home 110
 Mirroring virtuous people 112
 Practice, practice, and more practice..... 113
 Assessing Criticisms of Virtue Ethics 115
 It’s difficult to know which virtues are right 116
 Virtues can’t give exact guidance..... 116
 Virtue ethics is really self-centered..... 118
 Being virtuous is a lucky crapshoot 118

Chapter 7: Increasing the Good: Utilitarian Ethics. 121

Paying Close Attention to Results: Consequences Matter 122
 Consequences matter to everyone..... 122
 Consequences ethically trump principles and character 124

Surveying What Makes Consequences Good.....	125
Utilitarianism says: More pleasure, less pain (please!)	125
Beethoven or beer: Recognizing why some pleasures are better than others	127
Putting Utilitarianism into Action.....	128
Whose happiness counts?	129
How much happiness is enough?	130
Focusing On Two Different Ways to Be a Successful Utilitarian	130
Directly increasing the good through your actions	131
Indirectly increasing the good by following the rules	134
Exploring Traditional Problems with Utilitarianism	136
Challenge 1: Justice and rights play second fiddle in utilitarianism	136
Challenge 2: Utilitarianism is too demanding.....	137
Challenge 3: Utilitarianism may threaten your integrity	139
Challenge 4: Knowing what produces the most good is impossible	140

Chapter 8: Doing Your Duty: The Ethics of Principle 143

Kant's Ethics: Acting on Reasonable Principles	143
Defining principles	144
Noting the difference between principles and rules	145
Making sense of Kantian ethics: The struggle between nature and reason	146
Autonomy: Being a law unto yourself	149
Living by the Categorical Imperative: Reasonable Principles	150
Looking behind actions: Maxims are principles	150
Examining imperatives	154
Surveying the Forms of the Categorical Imperative.....	155
Form 1: Living by universal principles	155
Form 2: Respecting everyone's humanity.....	158
Applying the Categorical Imperative to Real-Life Dilemmas.....	160
Using the Formula of Universal Law to distinguish imperfect from perfect duties.....	160
Applying the Formula of Humanity to ethical topics	164
Scrutinizing Kant's Ethics.....	165
Unconditional duty: Can you lie to a murderer?.....	166
Making enough room for feelings	166
Accounting for beings with no reason	168

Chapter 9: Signing on the Dotted Line: Ethics as Contract 171

Creating Ethics with Contracts	171
Reviewing Hobbes's state of nature: The war of all against all....	172
Escaping the state of nature: Enter the sovereign!.....	174
Moving to the modern form of social contracts	175

Restructuring Social Institutions According to
 Rawls’s Theory of Justice 176
 Taking stock of the original position and its veil of ignorance.... 177
 Arriving at the liberty and difference principles 179
 Beyond the Dotted Line: Criticizing Contract Theory 182
 But I never signed on the dotted line! 182
 Libertarianism: Contracts make people lose too much liberty ... 183
 Communitarianism: Challenging the veil of ignorance 184

Chapter 10: The Golden Rule: Common Sense Ethics187

Assessing the Golden Rule’s Popularity 187
 Understanding why the Golden Rule endures 188
 Making an appearance over the ages 189
 Applying the Golden Rule Requires Seeing Yourself
 in Another’s Shoes 190
 Eyeing the Golden Rule’s basic tenets 190
 Reversibility: Flipping your perspective..... 191
 Reviewing the core criticisms of reversibility 193
 Fixing the problems with reversibility 195
 Surveying the Two Types of the Golden Rule..... 197
 The positive form of the Golden Rule: Promoting the good 198
 The negative form of the Golden Rule: Preventing harm 199
 Comparing the Christian and Confucian Common-Sense Approach ... 200
 Christianity’s Golden Rule: Loving your neighbor and enemy ... 200
 Confucianism’s Golden Rule: Developing
 others as social persons 202

Chapter 11: Turning Down the Testosterone: Feminist Care Ethics . . . 207

The Feminist Challenge: Traditional Ethics Is Biased toward Men..... 208
 Getting a grasp on the feminist approach 208
 Seeing how bias seeps into your life 210
 Exploring how bias infects ethics 210
 A Case Study of Male Bias: Kohlberg’s Theory of Moral Development... 211
 Examining Kohlberg’s six stages of moral development 211
 Understanding how ideal ethical reasoning is more abstract 213
 Considering Gilligan’s Criticism of Kohlberg’s Model 214
 Viewing the differences in how women and men think 214
 Highlighting male bias in Kohlberg’s thinking 217
 Discovering the importance of hearing women’s voices..... 218
 Surveying a New Feminist Ethics of Care 218
 Putting relationships first 219
 Letting feelings count: Cultivating care 220
 Embracing partiality 222
 Care avoids abstraction 222
 Reviewing Criticisms of Care Ethics..... 223
 Care ethics and public life: An uneasy fit 223
 Do some relationships really deserve care? 224
 Could care ethics harm women?..... 225

***Part IV: Applying Ethics to Real Life* 227**

Chapter 12: Dealing with Mad Scientists: Biomedical Ethics229

Examining Some Principles of Biomedical Ethics	230
Paternalism: Getting rid of the old model of medicine	230
Autonomy: Being in the driver's seat for your own healthcare decisions	231
Beneficence and nonmaleficence: Doing no harm	232
Taking a Closer Look at the Intractable Issue of Abortion.....	233
Deciding who is and isn't a person.....	233
A right to life from the beginning: Being pro-life	234
The freedom to control one's body: Being pro-choice	235
A 21st Century Problem: Attack of the Clones.....	236
Understanding the growing use of cloning in medicine	237
Determining whether cloning endangers individuality.....	238
Anticipating Ethical Problems with Genetic Technologies	239
Testing to avoid abnormalities	239
Finding cures for diseases with stem cell research	241
Considering genetic privacy concerns.....	242
Manipulating the genome to create designer people.....	242
Dying and Dignity: Debating Euthanasia	244
Dealing with controversy at the end of life	244
Making autonomous choices about death.....	245
Killing the most vulnerable.....	246

Chapter 13: Protecting the Habitat: Environmental Ethics247

Canvassing Environmental Ethics	247
Recognizing environmental problems	248
Expanding care past human beings.....	248
Determining Whose Interests Count	251
Starting with the 4-1-1 on interests.....	252
Anthropocentrism: Only humans matter!.....	254
Sentientism: Don't forget animals.....	255
Biocentrism: Please don't pick on life.....	256
Eco-centrism: The land itself is alive.....	258
Turning to Environmental Approaches	260
Conservationism: Keeping an eye on costs.....	260
Deep ecology: Viewing interconnection as the key.....	261
Social ecology: Blaming domination	263
Examining Criticisms of Environmental Ethics.....	265
Eco-fascism: Pushing humans out of the picture.....	266
Valuing things in a nonhuman-centered way: Is it possible?	267

Chapter 14: Serving the Public: Professional Ethics	269
Exploring the Ethics of Work	269
Knowing the difference between jobs and professions	270
Exploring the relationship between professions and society.....	271
Walking the line: What professionals are required to do	272
Examining two general problems in professional ethics.....	272
Analyzing the Diversity of Professional Ethics	274
Journalism: Accurately informing the public.....	275
Engineering: Solving technological problems safely.....	276
Legal work: Honorably practicing law.....	277
Accounting: Managing people’s money honestly	278
Medicine: Doing no harm.....	279
Chapter 15: Keeping the Peace: Ethics and Human Rights.	281
Taking Stock: Human Rights 101	281
Eyeing what human rights are.....	282
Having rights and being in the right.....	283
Comparing rights, duties, and laws	284
Determining what justifies human rights.....	285
Grappling with Two Different Notions of Human Rights	288
Negative rights: Protecting the individual from harm	289
Positive rights: Contributing to the good of others	290
Understanding Human Rights through the Ethical Traditions	292
Ambivalence about rights: Utilitarianism.....	292
A close tie to rights: Deontology.....	293
Worried about rights: Virtue ethics	294
Criticizing Human Rights	295
Considering human rights as imperialistic.....	295
Understanding why human rights aren’t what they seem	296
Chapter 16: Getting It On: The Ethics of Sex	299
Focusing on Sexual Ethics: The High Stakes of Intercourse	300
Explaining the standard view of sexual morality.....	300
Evaluating the morality of sex under the standard view.....	302
Debating Homosexuality.....	303
Looking at natural law theory and the ethics of being LGBT.....	304
Pondering tradition and same-sex marriage	305
Tackling Exploitation in the Ethics of Pornography	306
Wondering whether pornography is simply freedom of expression	307
Understanding the anti-pornography perspective.....	308
Paying for It: Is Prostitution Ethical?.....	309

Chapter 17: Looking Out for the Little Guy: Ethics and Animals . . . 313

Focusing on the Premise of Animal Rights	314
Questioning whether humans really are superior to animals	315
Seeing why Peter Singer says animals feel pain too	316
Being wary of speciesism.....	317
Experimenting on Animals for the Greater Good	319
The main rationale for experimenting:	
Harming animals saves humans	319
Debating animal testing of consumer products.....	321
To Eat or Not to Eat Animals: That's the Question	322
Understanding why ethical vegetarians don't eat meat	322
Responding to ethical vegetarians: Omnivores strike back!.....	323
Looking at factory farming's effects on animals	325
Vegans: Eliminating animal servitude	326
Targeting the ethics of hunting animals	327

Part V: The Part of Tens 329**Chapter 18: Ten Famous Ethicists and Their Theories 331**

Confucius: Nurturing Virtue in Good Relationships	331
Plato: Living Justly through Balance.....	332
Aristotle: Making Virtue Ethics a Habit	332
Hobbes: Beginning Contract Theory.....	333
Hume: Eyeing the Importance of Moral Feelings	333
Kant: Being Ethical Makes You Free.....	334
Mill: Maximizing Utility Matters Most.....	334
Nietzsche: Connecting Morals and Power.....	335
Rawls: Looking Out for the Least Well-Off.....	335
Singer: Speaking Out for Modern Utilitarianism.....	336

Chapter 19: Ten Ethical Dilemmas Likely to Arise in the Future . . . 337

Making Designer Genes.....	337
Creating Thinking Machines	338
Managing the Growing Population of Planet Earth	338
Dealing with Dramatic Increases in the Human Lifespan.....	339
Fighting Wars Using Synthetic Soldiers	339
Exploring and Terraforming New Worlds.....	340
Using Computers to Manage Vital Services	340
Maintaining Your Authenticity with Social Networking	341
Integrating Humans with Networked Computers.....	341
Being Immersed in Virtual Worlds	342

Index 343