

A promotional image for the movie 'Duty'. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark turtleneck and a tactical vest, looks off to the side with a serious expression. In the background, three men in police uniforms are visible. The man on the left is wearing a vest with 'POLICE' written on it. The man in the middle is holding a handgun. The man on the right is also in uniform. The scene is set in a dark, industrial-looking environment with debris on the ground.

Duty

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Duty

- Duty is a requirement to moral action
- The word 'deontological' comes from the Greek word *deon*, which means 'duty'.
- Duty-based ethics teaches that some acts are right or wrong because of the sorts of things they are



<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/02/opinion/should-work-be-passion-or-duty.html>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/duty_1.shtml

Cover image: <https://www.justwatch.com/us/tv-show/line-of-duty>

Deontology



“Deontologists argue that you can never know what the results will be so it doesn’t make sense to decide whether something is ethical based on outcomes.”

“Deontology is also concerned with intentions. If you intended good through your action, then the action is good, no matter what actually happened as a result.”

<https://lcubbison.pressbooks.com/chapter/core-202-ethical-reasoning/>

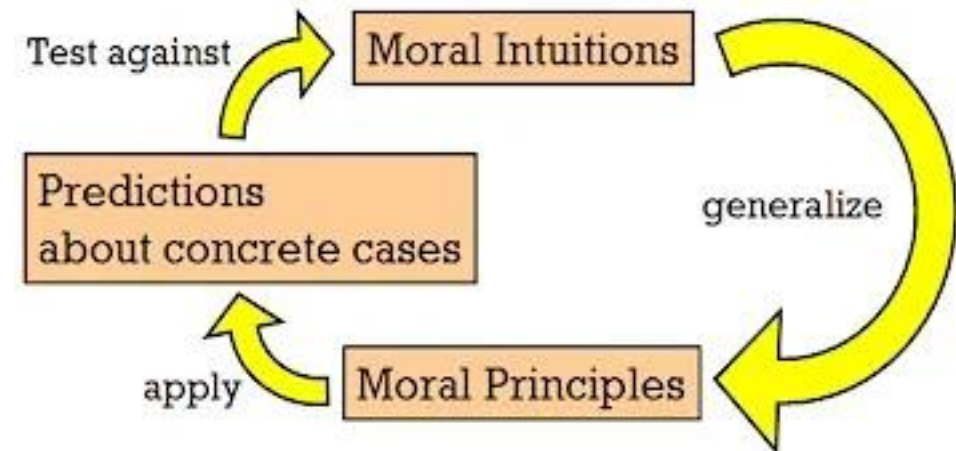
https://k12.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Philosophy/08%3A_Chapter_8/8.05%3A_Section_5-

Moral Intuitions

- Derived from the ‘natural law theory’ of the Middle Ages
- E.g. Aquinas: “every substance seeks the preservation of its own being, according to its nature: and by reason of this inclination, whatever is a means of preserving human life, and of warding off its obstacles, belongs to the natural law.” (Q94:2)
- Act intuitionism, rule-intuitionism

https://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1380&context=phil_fac

<https://theelectricagora.com/2015/11/04/a-discussion-on-moral-intuition/>

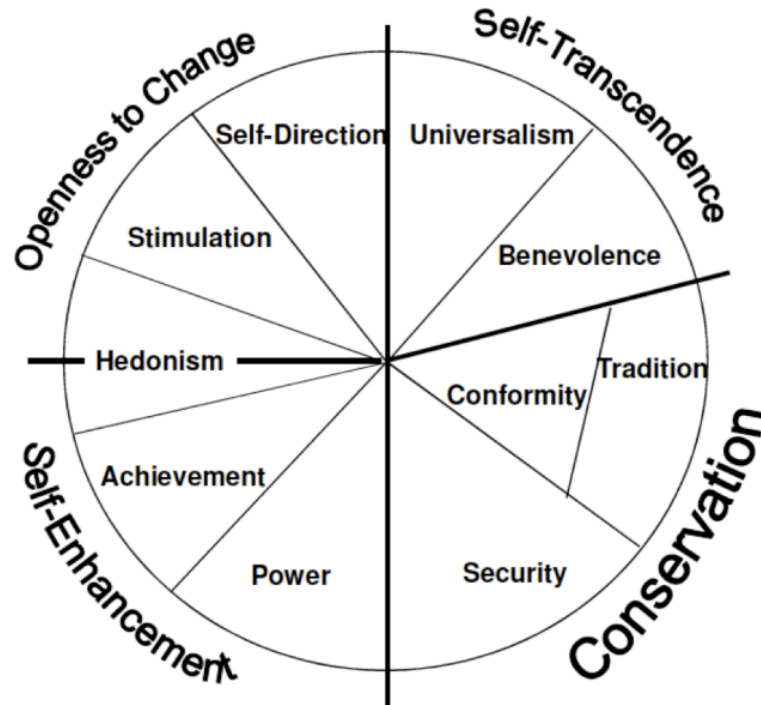


Natural Law Theory

- From John Finnis, Germain Grisez, and others, a set of seven basic, self-evident values from which moral norms could be safely derived
 - Life, health, and safety
 - Knowledge of reality and appreciation of beauty
 - Some degree of excellence in work and play
 - Living at peace with others, neighborliness, friendship
 - Aesthetic experience as harmony and inner peace
 - Harmony between one's choices, judgements and performances
 - Religion and pursuit of ultimate questions of meaning and value

https://scholarship.law.nd.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1855&context=law_faculty_scholarship

Value Theory



Schwartz – Value Theory

<https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1116&context=orpc>



Maslow - Hierarchy

<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-23902918>

Rousseau on Human Freedom

- The meaning and importance of human dignity
- The primacy of freedom and autonomy
- The intrinsic worth of human beings



“The hope of creating a stable and just political society on the basis of narrow self-interest is a soul-shrinking and self-destructive dogma masquerading as a science of politics.” (p.19)

<https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/30072/650028.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2014/jan/20/rousseau-compassionate-intense-relevant-philosopher>

Duty and Necessity

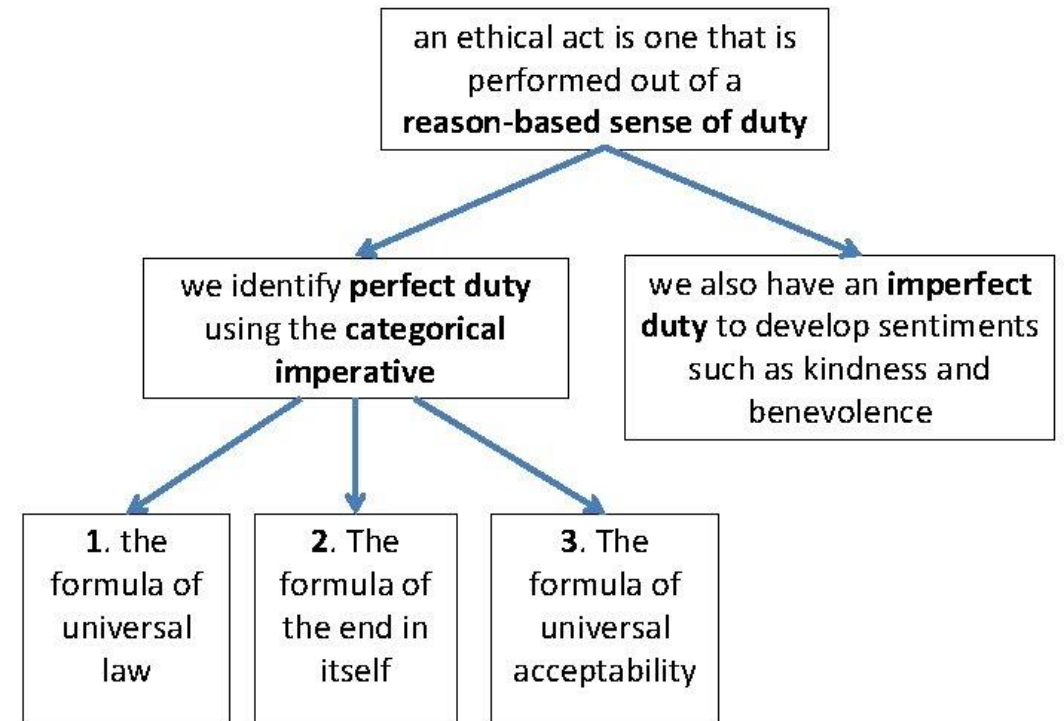
- Kant:
 - “Nothing in the world—or out of it!—can possibly be conceived that could be called ‘good’ without qualification except a good will.”
 - “Good will is good because of how it wills
 - i.e. it is good in itself.
 - Morality should not depend on human nature and hence be subject to the fortune of change and the luck of empirical discovery
- Yes but: :the road to Hell is paved with good intentions” (Pojman & Fieser, 2012, p. 127)

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1785.pdf>



The Categorical Imperative (CI)

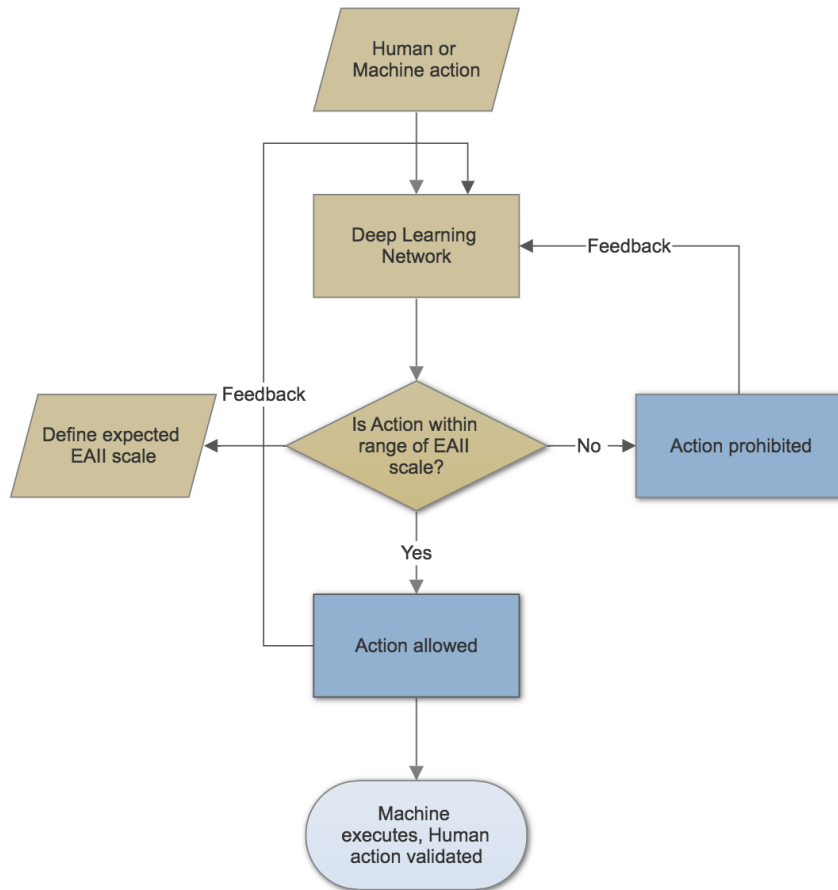
- Hypothetical Imperative: If you want A, you must do B
- Categorical Imperative: Do B
- “Act only according to the maxim by which you can at the same time will that it would become a universal law.”
- All specific duties can be derived from this one imperative



<https://slidetodoc.com/ethics-theory-and-business-practice-3-2-kantian/>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/categorical-imperative>

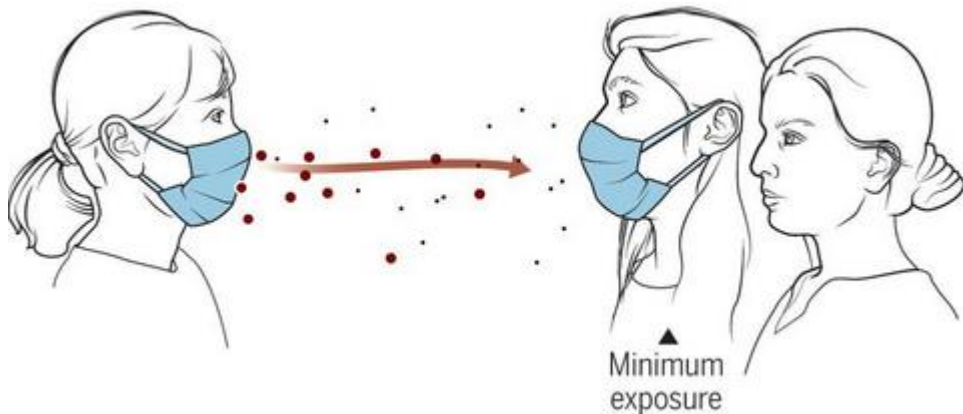
Additional Versions of the CI



- “Act only according to the maxim by which you can at the same time will that it would become a universal law of nature.”
- “Act as to treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of any other, in every case as an end and never merely as a means”
- “Act that your will can regard itself at the same time as making universal law through its maxims.”

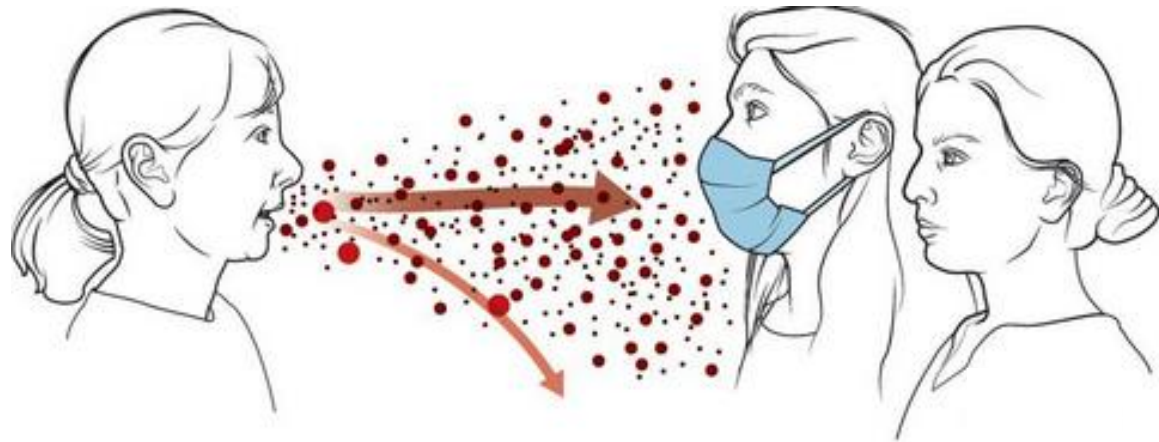
Contradiction

- What would *prevent* something from becoming a universal law?
 - logical contradiction?
 - teleological contradiction (contrary to a purposeful and organized system of nature)?
 - practical contradiction (would be ineffective for achieving my purpose if everybody did it)?



The Categorical and the Contingent

- Sokol writes, "Religion, financial gain, reputation, personal character, social context, geographical location, severity and nature of disease, the climate of fear - these are all influential factors in doctors' decision to treat, perhaps more so than in any other historical period."



Sokol D. 2004. Healthcare Workers' Duty to Care and Severe Infectious Diseases. www.medicalethicist.net/Thesis3.doc

Examples

- Making a lying promise
- Committing suicide
- Neglecting one's talent
- Refraining from helping others

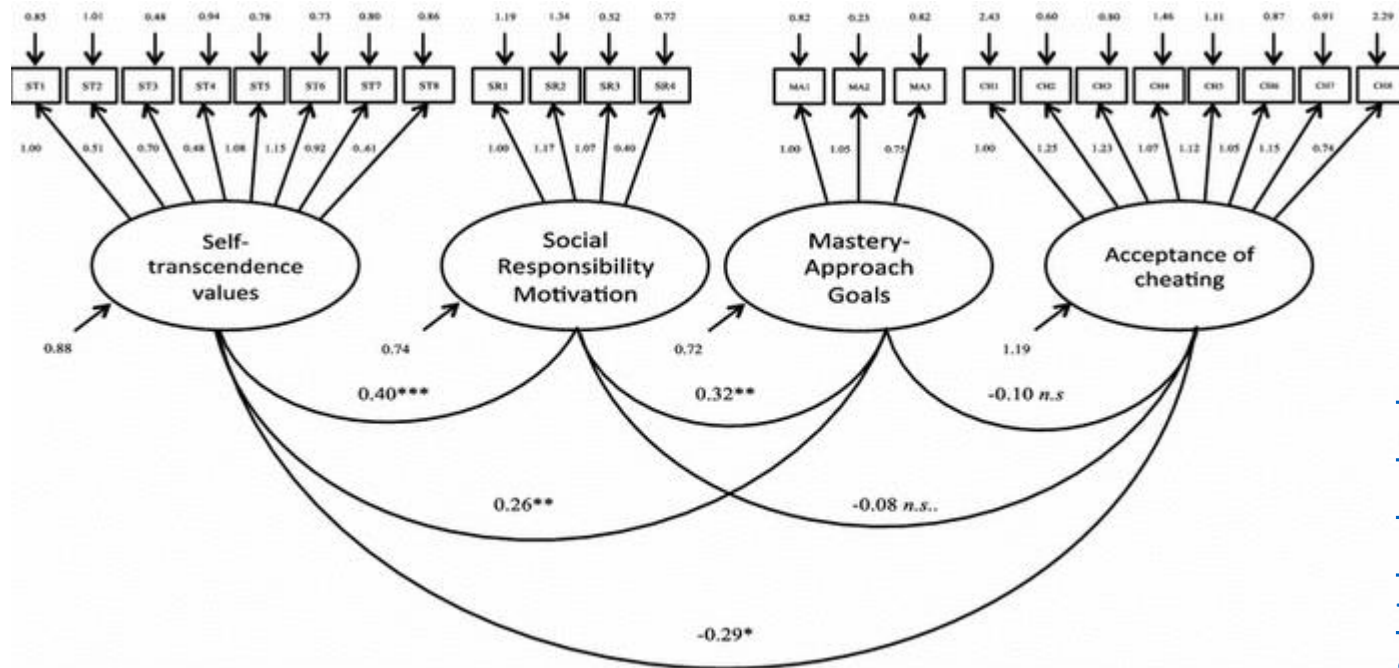


<http://people.tamu.edu/~g-varner/bioethics/ethicaltheory/kantsfourexamples.html>

<https://slideplayer.com/slide/14053938/>

Criticisms

- Mandating trivial actions
- Prohibiting permissible actions
- Endorsing cheating
- Mandating genocide



Measurement model. All factor loadings have $p \leq .001$

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284338562> When a and why people don't accept cheating Self-transcendence values social responsibility mastery goals and attitudes towards cheating

The Inhumanity of Duty

Duty ethics allows little room for context. In *Les Misérables*, was Jean Valjean wrong to steal bread to feed his starving sister's children? Would it have been wrong to lie to a Gestapo officer asking where Jews were hidden or to slave-catchers in pursuit of runaways in the pre-war South? Some would say that the answers depend upon the circumstances and options available to us, rather than on it being the case that certain types of actions are always and necessarily wrong.



Radford University Core Handbook: Core 202- Ethical Reasoning and Analysis

<https://lcubbison.pressbooks.com/chapter/core-202-ethical-reasoning/>

Treating People as Ends



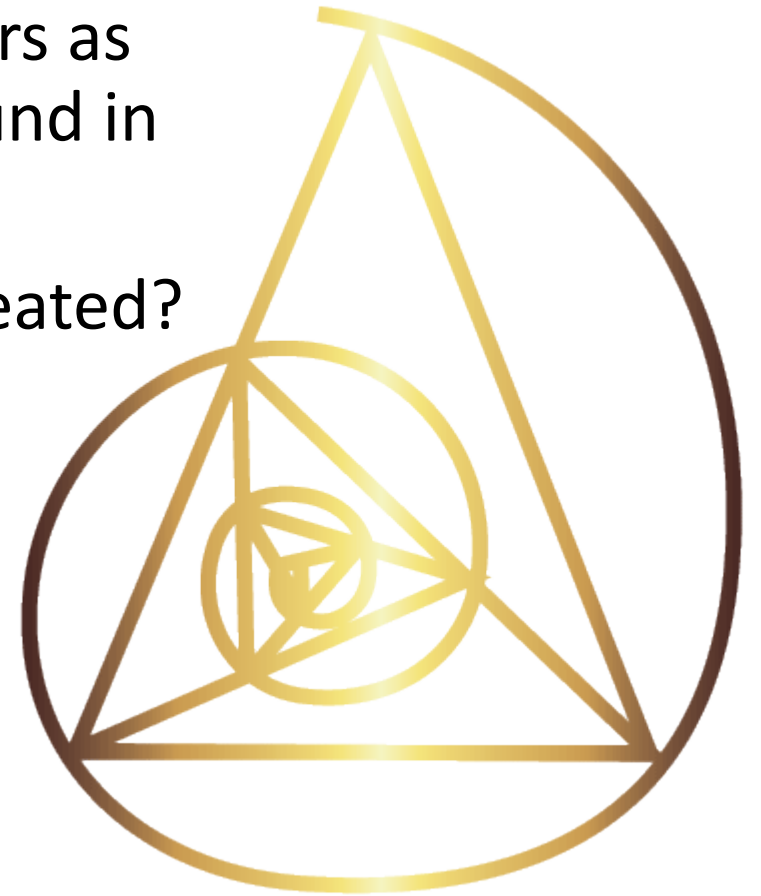
- For a moral principle:
 - Does it involve violating the dignity of human beings?
 - Can the maxim be universalized?
- But: what does it actually *tell* us about how we should treat them?

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/persons-means/>

The Golden Rule

The Golden Rule is the principle of treating others as one wants to be treated. It is a maxim that is found in most religions and cultures.

- How does one know how others want to be treated?
- What if their tastes are not the same as yours?
- What about hypothetical situations?



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Rule

<https://www.goldenruleproject.org/>

The Socialist Principle

"From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/From_each_according_to_his_ability,_to_each_according_to_his_needs



Defining the Good as Reason

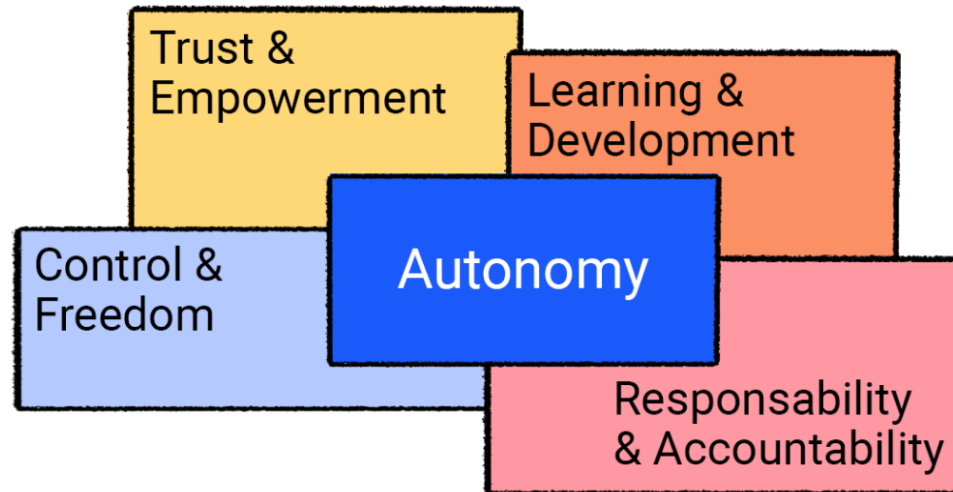
- Are those who have more reason than others intrinsically better?
 - Are we intrinsically better than animals?
 - Would super-galacticans be intrinsically better than us?



<https://www.empireonline.com/movies/news/ralph-steadman-good-reason/>

Autonomy

- What's important in Kat's dictum is that we do not depend on an external moral authority to unveil moral law – we discover it for ourselves
- But how autonomous are we, really? (c.f. the Stanley Milgram shocking experiment in the 1960s)



<https://officevibe.com/blog/employee-autonomy-workplace>

Prima Facie Duties



- The problem of exceptionless rules
- W.D. Ross – ‘prima facie duties’:
 - Moral principles are self-evidence to any normal person on reflection
 - But there is a plurality of principles, in no particular order
 - E.g. keeping promises, fidelity, gratitude, beneficence, justice, self-improvement, non-maleficence
 - Any principle can be over-ridden by others in particular situations

<https://www.mvorganizing.org/what-are-the-prima-facie-duties-according-to-wd-ross/>

<https://www.lecturesbureau.gr/1/prima-facie-duties-lou-marinoff-1449/?lang=en>

Professional Duties

“Duty to care for a patient by physician is a duty of virtue. A person who decides to become a physician takes on the promise of using his or her abilities to the best advantage. Such a promise can be explicit (e.g., taking an oath) or implicit, but there is no denying its existence.”

<https://www.longwoods.com/content/17389/law-and-governance/clinicians-duty-to-care-a-kantian-analysis>

<https://www.kitces.com/blog/the-15-fiduciary-duties-to-clients-that-cfp-professionals-must-comply-with/>

15 DUTIES TO CLIENTS THAT CFP® PROFESSIONALS MUST FOLLOW		
Primary Duty	01.	Fiduciary
Professional Obligations	02.	Integrity
	03.	Competence
	04.	Diligence
	05.	Sound & Objective Professional Judgment
	06.	Professionalism
	07.	Comply with the Law
Client Interactions	08.	Disclose & Manage Conflicts
	09.	Maintain & Protect Confidentiality & Privacy
	10.	Communicate with a Client (in accordance with scope)
	11.	Provide Information
	12.	Represent Compensation Method Appropriately
	13.	Do Not Borrow/Lend Commingle Assets
Other Duties	14.	Obligations when Recommending Additional Persons
	15.	Selecting Technology

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Source: CFP Board of Standards, Inc.

The Emptiness of Rules



Morality doesn't seem to simply be a matter of following the rules. "If right action were determined by rules that any clever adolescent could apply correctly, how could this be so? Why are there not moral whiz-kids, the way there are mathematical (or quasi-mathematical) whiz-kids?" (Hursthouse, 1998)

<https://finance-notes.com/10-examples-of-business-ethics-and-why-they-are-important-for-your-business/>

The End of Principles?

- “The concept of ‘ethical principles’ for AI has encountered pushback both from ethicists, some of whom object to the imprecise usage of the term in this context, as well as from some human rights practitioners, who resist the recasting of fundamental human rights in this language.” (Fjeld, et.al., 2020)



<https://www.slidegeeks.com/business/product/ethical-standards-governance-ppt-powerpoint-presentation-summary-example-cpb>