PHI1801, Ethics in Global Society

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Date

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Professor

Dr. Jared Sorber

Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Weekend Residency: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited

sources) during the week of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage

with other students during the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade

assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

**Understand Ethics as the Philosophy and Methodology of Behavior and the Conducting**

**of Human Activities**

“Ethics is the [discipline](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discipline) concerned with what is [morally](https://www.britannica.com/topic/morality) good and bad and morally right and wrong. The term is also applied to any system or theory of [moral](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/moral) values or principles” (Singer, n.d). Deigh (2010) defines ethics as “a study of what good and bad ends to pursue in life and what it is right and wrong to do in the conduct of life. It is therefore, above all, a practical discipline. Its primary aim is to determine how one ought to live and what actions one ought to do in the conduct of one’s life. (p. 2)” Ethics therefore is an action word concerned with how people ought to conduct themselves on the journey throughout life. Ethics is a branch of philosophy that seeks to respond to questions around human nature and human actions; right behaviour/practice (orthopraxis) and wrong behavior. It establishes guidelines and moral principles about human actions and behaviours. By nature, ethics is a philosophical discipline that utilizes methodology and approaches to ethical decision making such as deontology and teleology, (utilitarianism, egoism and eudemonism).

Deontological approaches/methods to ethics are built on the notion that human behaviour/actions are not dependent upon consequences but that people are duty bound to be moral, often using God as benchmark for good behaviour. Deontology is founded on Judaic and Christian theology and divine law and exemplifies theonomy. The teleological method to ethics however asserts that human behaviour is directly dependent on consequences. Therefore, human behaviour, good or bad, is based on the consequences for these actions. The philosophers Plato, Aristotle and Epicurus are teleology theorists.

Ethics is an interesting discipline that exemplifies how people ought to behave and how morals, standards and principles of good and bad behaviour are upheld in society. What influences human behaviour? Why do some people steal and other persons would never steal, even to feed their family? Why do some people lie and others would not do so to save himself or herself or family? Are we ruled by our conscience or something beyond the human mind and influence? As Christians, we are guided by a higher power and divine conscience and consciousness that keeps us grounded in our human existence, not out of fear of being damned but the essence of being an example of how and who God is.

References

Singer, P. (n.d.). *Ethics*. Encyclopedia Britannica.

Deigh, J. (2010). *An introduction to ethics*. Cambridge University Press.