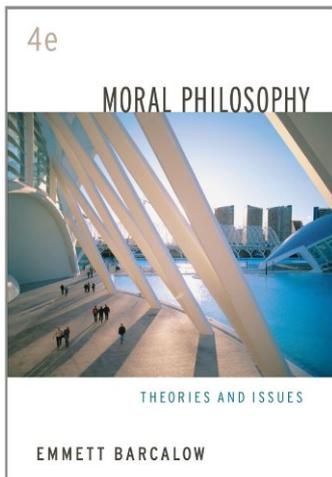


[PDF] Moral Philosophy: Theories And Issues

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Books Details:

Title: Moral Philosophy: Theories an

Author: Emmett Barcalow

Released:

Language:

Pages: 416

ISBN: 0495007153

ISBN13: 9780495007159

ASIN: 0495007153

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Half theory, half practical application! MORAL PHILOSOPHY: THEORIES AND ISSUES is the easy-to-understand philosophy textbook that's designed specifically for you, the student without a philosophy background. You'll not only learn about moral philosophy, you'll discover how to apply it to your own life. And because it's packed with study tools inside, MORAL PHILOSOPHY: THEORIES AND ISSUES is ideal for preparing for tests.

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Moral philosophy is the study of what morality is and what it requires of us. As Socrates said, it's about "how we ought to live" and why. It would be helpful if we could begin with a simple, uncontroversial definition of what morality is, but that turns out to be impossible. There are many rival theories, each expounding a different conception of what it means to live morally, and any definition that goes beyond Socrates's simple formulation is bound to offend at least one of them. This should make us cautious, but it need not paralyze us. In this chapter, I will describe the "minimum concept" Fundamental issues in moral philosophy must also be settled a priori because of the nature of moral requirements themselves, or so Kant thought. This is a third reason he gives for an a priori method, and it appears to have been of great importance to Kant: Moral requirements present themselves as being unconditionally necessary. It would view them as demands for which compliance is not unconditionally necessary, but rather necessary only if additional considerations show it to be advantageous, optimistic or in some other way felicitous. Thus, Kant argued that if moral philosophy is to guard against undermining the unconditional necessity of obligation in its analysis and defense of moral thought, it must be carried out entirely a priori.

2. Good Will, Moral Worth and Duty.

Moral philosophy is the branch of philosophy that contemplates what is right and wrong. It explores the nature of morality and examines how people should live their lives in relation to others. Moral philosophy has three branches. One branch, meta-ethics, investigates big picture questions such as, "What is morality?" "What is justice?" It addresses specific, practical issues of moral importance such as war and capital punishment. Applied ethics also tackles specific moral challenges that people face daily, such as whether they should lie to help a friend or co-worker. So, whether our moral focus is big picture questions, a practical framework, or applied to specific dilemmas, moral philosophy can provide the tools we need to examine and live an ethical life.

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2. Good Will, Moral Worth and Duty. Moral philosophy is the branch of learning that deals with the nature of morality and the theories that are used to arrive at decisions about what one ought to do and why. Much has been written about moral philosophy and the theories that support ethical decisions. One of the best, brief explanations of moral theories is found in Rachels and Rachels (2010). If we want to discover the truth, we must try to let our feelings be guided as much as possible by the arguments that can be given for the opposing views. Morality is, first and foremost, a matter of consulting reason. The morally right thing

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