

# CONTENTS

.....

Preface ix

**CHAPTER 1. What Is Morality? 1**

- A. Conventional and Critical Morality 2
- B. The Branches of Moral Philosophy 3
- C. Moral Starting Points 3
- D. Morality and Other Normative Systems 5
- E. Morality and Religion 7
- F. Conclusion 12
- Key Terms and Concepts 12
- Discussion Questions 12
- Cases for Critical Reflection 13

**CHAPTER 2. Moral Reasoning 17**

- A. Validity and Soundness 18
- B. Necessary and Sufficient Conditions 20
- C. Valid Argument Forms 22
- D. Fallacies 27
- E. Conclusion 33
- Key Terms and Concepts 33
- Discussion Questions 34

**CHAPTER 3. Skepticism about Morality 37**

- A. Egoism 37
  - B. Relativism 43
  - C. Error Theory 47
  - D. Conclusion 54
-

Key Terms and Concepts	55
Discussion Questions	55
Cases for Critical Reflection	56

**CHAPTER 4. The Good Life 60**

A. Hedonism	61
B. Desire Satisfaction Theory	65
C. Conclusion	70
Key Terms and Concepts	71
Discussion Questions	71
Cases for Critical Reflection	72

**CHAPTER 5. Natural Law 75**

A. The Theory and Its Attractions	75
B. Three Conceptions of Human Nature	77
C. Natural Purposes	80
D. The Doctrine of Double Effect	84
E. Conclusion	87
Key Terms and Concepts	88
Discussion Questions	88
Cases for Critical Reflection	89

**CHAPTER 6. Consequentialism 92**

A. The Nature of Consequentialism	92
B. The Attractions of Utilitarianism	93
C. Some Difficulties for Utilitarianism	95
D. Conclusion	104
Key Terms and Concepts	105
Discussion Questions	105
Cases for Critical Reflection	106

**CHAPTER 7. Kantian Ethics 109**

A. Consistency and Fairness	110
B. The Principle of Universalizability	112
C. Hypothetical and Categorical Imperatives	114
D. Assessing the Principle of Universalizability	116
E. Kant on Absolute Moral Duties	117
F. The Principle of Humanity	119
G. Conclusion	125
Key Terms and Concepts	126

Discussion Questions	126
Cases for Critical Reflection	127

<b>CHAPTER 8. Social Contract Theory</b>	<b>130</b>
A. The Background of the Social Contract Theory	130
B. The Prisoner's Dilemma	131
C. Cooperation and the State of Nature	133
D. The Advantages of Contractarianism	135
E. The Role of Consent	137
F. Disagreement among the Contractors	138
G. Conclusion	140
Key Terms and Concepts	140
Discussion Questions	140
Cases for Critical Reflection	141

<b>CHAPTER 9. The Ethic of Prima Facie Duties</b>	<b>144</b>
A. Ethical Pluralism and Prima Facie Duties	145
B. The Advantages of Ross's View	147
C. A Problem for Ross's View	148
D. Prima Facie Duties and the Testing of Moral Theories	149
E. Knowing the Right Thing to Do	151
F. Conclusion	153
Key Terms and Concepts	153
Discussion Questions	153
Cases for Critical Reflection	154

<b>CHAPTER 10. Virtue Ethics</b>	<b>157</b>
A. The Standard of Right Action	158
B. Moral Complexity	159
C. Moral Understanding	159
D. The Nature of Virtue	160
E. Does Virtue Ethics Offer Adequate Moral Guidance?	162
F. Who Are the Moral Role Models?	163
G. Conflict and Contradiction	164
H. The Priority Problem	165
I. Conclusion	167
Key Terms and Concepts	167
Discussion Questions	167
Cases for Critical Reflection	168

**CHAPTER 11. Feminist Ethics and the Ethics of Care 172**

- A. The Elements of Feminist Ethics 173
- B. The Ethics of Care 174
- C. The Importance of Emotions 175
- D. Against Unification 176
- E. Partiality and Concreteness 177
- F. Downplaying Rights 177
- G. Challenges for Feminist Ethics 178
- H. Conclusion 180
  - Key Terms and Concepts 181
  - Discussion Questions 181
  - Cases for Critical Reflection 182

Suggestions for Further Reading 185

Appendix: The Truth about Philosophy Majors 195

Glossary 203

Index 211