

Introducing ETHICS

A level Philosophy

02 May 2024

Ethics

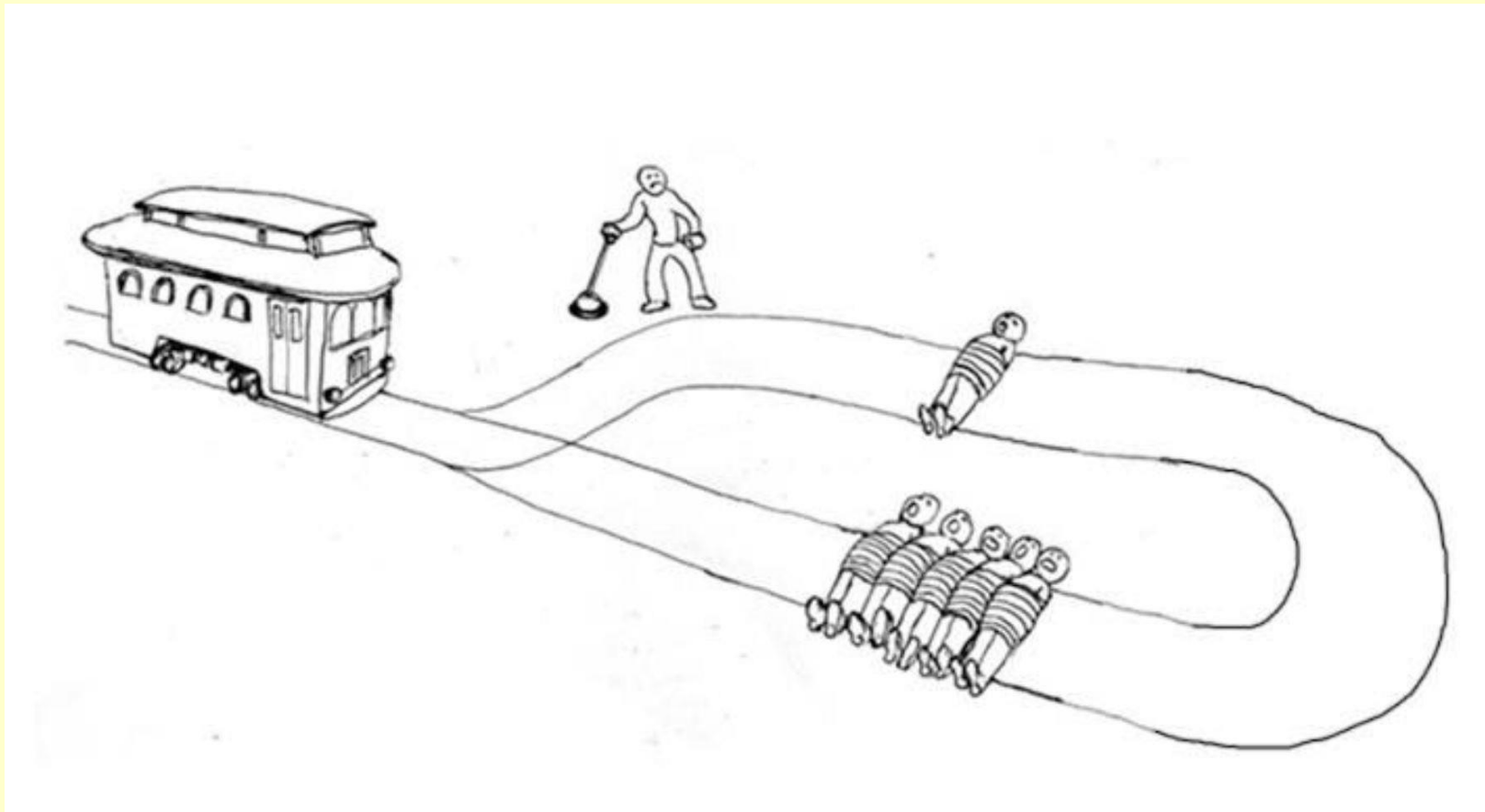
What is ethics?

Some ethical questions...

- Ought **violent video games** be banned?
- Is it morally wrong to **eat animals**?
- Is it ever **right to lie**?
- And is it ever **right to steal**?

The trolley problem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOpf6KcWYyw>



- Explain the **trolley problem**
- What two **moral principles**
is it meant to elicit?
- What would you say is the
right thing to do?



Ethics



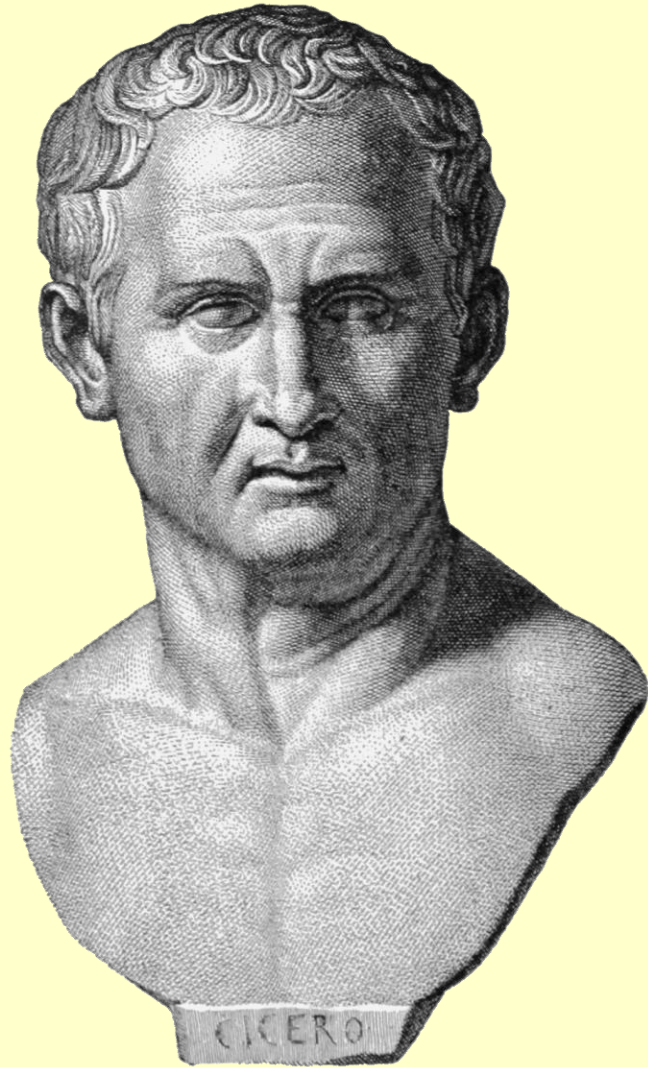
Victor Hugo

Relativism

**Moral truths hold
in all contexts**

Absolutism

**Moral truths vary
according to context**



What is the
difference
between
morality,
immorality,
and **amorality?**

An introduction to ethical philosophy

07 November 2024

Morality, Immorality, & Amorality

Really basic definitions 1

Moral

Right / good

Immoral

Wrong / bad

Amoral

Neither right nor wrong

Some examples: match 'em

Moral

“It is _____ to
murder.”

Immoral

“It is _____ to
help the poor.”

Amoral

“Watching TV is
_____ behaviour.”

Some examples: match 'em

Moral

“Hitler’s actions were deeply
_____.”

Immoral

“It is _____ to
help the poor.”

Amoral

“Plants are
_____.”

Breathing in air

Hating Jews

Helping the needy

Eating carrots

**Torturing innocent
people**

Giving generously

**What are the three
main branches of
ethics?**

ethical theory
moral principles

(descriptive ethics)
concerns agents' actual morality

applied ethics
particular moral issues

meta-ethics
The nature of ethical language and
properties

Is

What does Ms Cox
believe about the death
penalty?

ethical theory

descriptive

applied ethics

meta-ethics

What does the law say
about euthanasia?

ethical theory

**descriptive
ethics**

applied ethics

meta-ethics

Do Inuits believe in
euthanasia?

ethical theory

descriptive
ethics

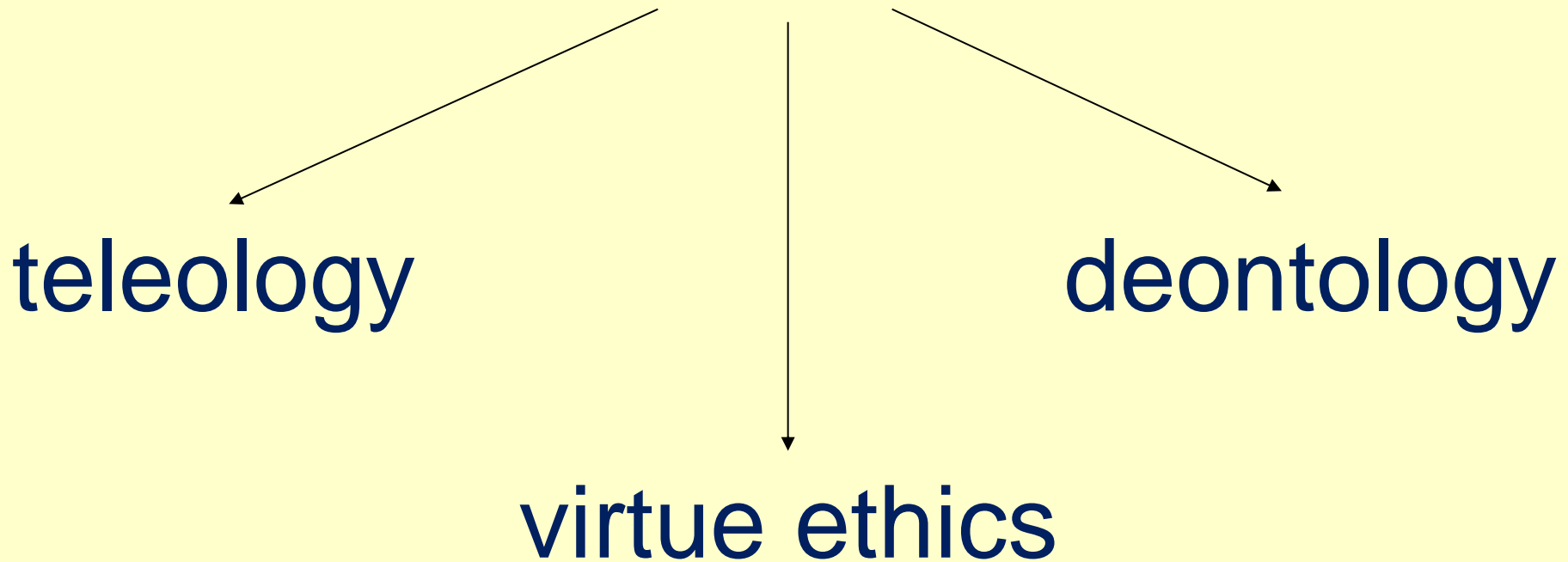
applied ethics

meta-ethics

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Kinds of ethical theory

Kinds of ethical theory



deontology

deon = duty

teleology
consequentialism

telos = result

virtue
ethics
aretaic ethics

aretē = virtues

There are other theories/kinds of theory...

- One approach you can take with 25 mark questions is to learn about a fourth and use it to evaluate---and trump---the others



Jürgen Habermas

You should help your parent with the washing up because:

**it is polite (i.e.,
exercises politeness**

deontology

duties, laws, rules

teleology

**results, consequences,
outcomes**

aretaic ethics

virtues, characteristics

**Soldiers should fight
in war because:**

**A soldier's duty is to
it shows courage
follow orders**

deontology

duties, rights, rules

teleology

**results, consequences,
outcomes**

aretaic ethics

virtues, characteristics

deontology

teleology

aretaic

Kantianism

Utilitarianism

Virtue Theory

Immanuel Kant



Jeremy Bentham



Aristotle



Major thinkers

How is it customary to divide ethical philosophy?

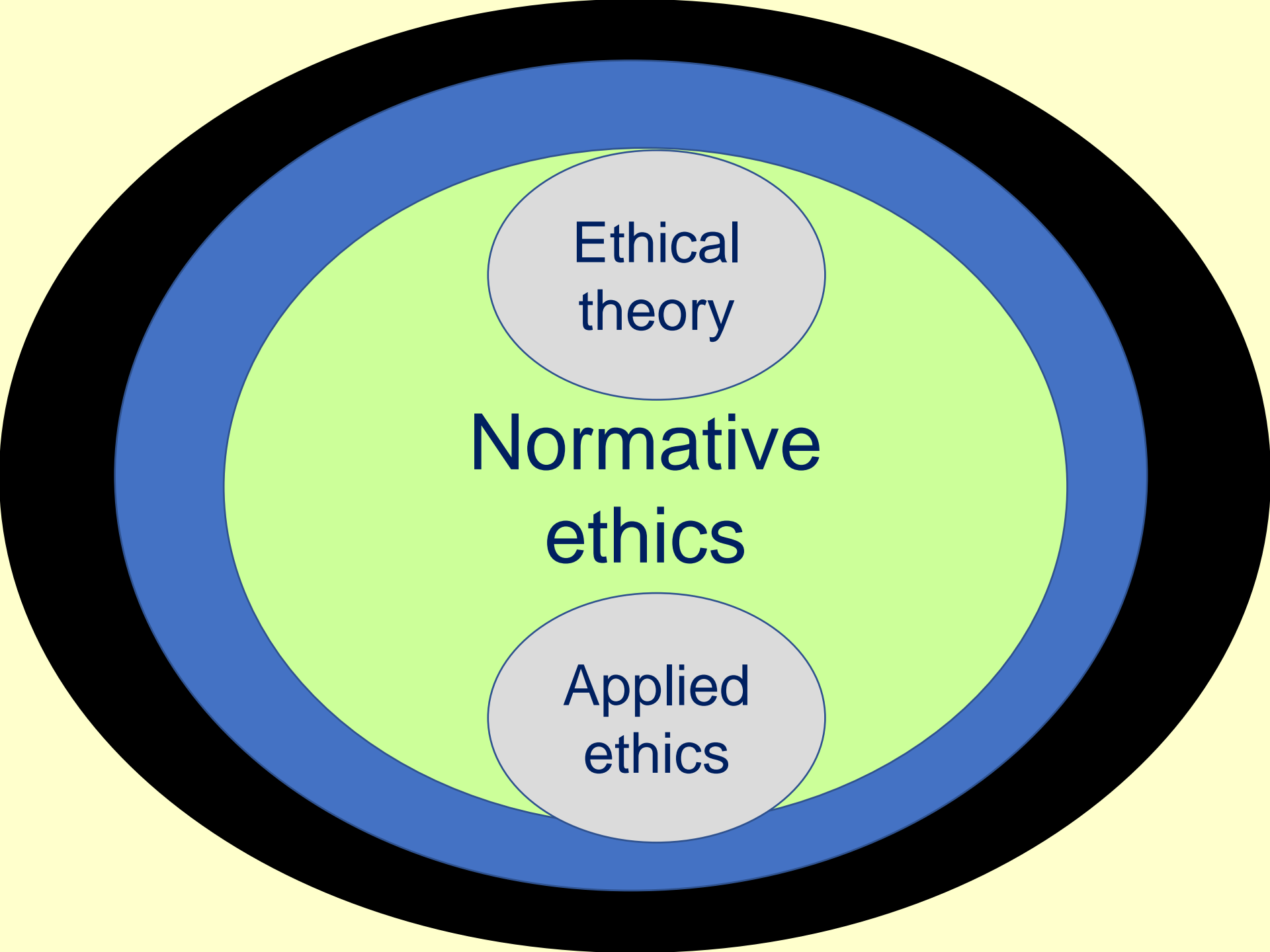
The main strands



overlapping



Normative
ethics



Ethical
theory

Normative
ethics

Applied
ethics



Meta-
Ethics

Normative
ethics?

Or meta-ethics?

Moral truths vary from culture to culture

- What is ethics?
- **What is the difference between applied ethics, ethical theory, and descriptive ethics?**
- What is normative ethics?
- **What's the Trolley problem (Phillipa Foot's)**
- What is it to be amoral?
- **What's the difference between relativism and absolutism?**
- What's the same about subjectivism and relativism?

Timetable

Unit 1: Utilitarianism

Unit 2: Kantianism

Unit 3: Aristotelianism

Unit 4: Applied ethics

Unit 5: Meta-ethics

Epistem. & ethics revision

Public examinations

May 2025