What is Ethics?
A Question of Competing Values in a Complex World

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What does it mean to be human in an age of technology?

Technology: Definitions

"**The totality of methods rationally arrived at and having absolute efficiency (for a given stage of development) in every field of human activity.**"
~**Jacques Ellul**

"**The sum of concrete activities and products of men and women who engage in inquiry in its manifold forms: in the sciences, in the fine and useful arts, in business, in engineering, and in [politics].**"

~**Larry Hickman**

Ethics: Definitions

- What one ought to do with respect to others in terms of virtues, duty, and benefits to society, as well as upholding the dignity and worth of each and every individual ~ Creely

- The conscious reflection on our moral beliefs with the aim of improving, extending, or refining those beliefs in some way ~ Hinman

Domains of Human Action
"Laws and Manners"

Positive law | Obedience to the Unenforceable | Free Choice

Evil

- Privation of the good ~ Erich Fromm, Ph.D.
- Characteristics of evil ~ M. Scott Peck, Ph.D.

  Malignant narcissism

  Scapegoating

  Control

  Manipulation

  Deception

Ethical Dilemmas

A difficult decision in which one or more of the ethical principles comes into conflict – competing values
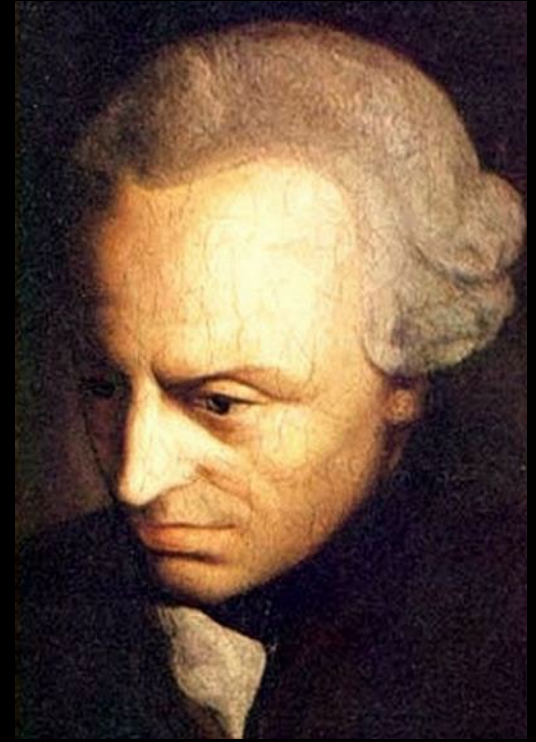
- Ethics of Duty
- Ethics of Consequences
- Ethics of Virtue

Deontology (Duty)

- The premise that a moral theory must be grounded in an account of what is unconditionally good – Kant

- Categorical Imperative – Always act in such a way that the maxim behind your actions can be willed as a universal law

Utilitarianism (Consequences)

- The view that a morally correct action is one that produces the greatest good

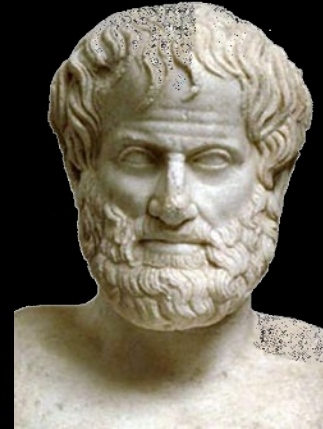- This is based upon the consequences of the action

John Stuart Mill

Virtue (Character)

- Ethical theories that emphasize one's virtues, or moral <u>character</u>

- What does it mean to be virtuous?

Aristotle

St. Augustine of Hippo

St. Thomas Aquinas

The Golden Mean - Aristotle

VICE (DEFECT)	VIRTUE (MEAN)	VICE (EXCESS)
Cowardice (too little confidence)	Courage	Rashness (too much confidence)
Foolhardiness (too little fear)	Courage	Cowardice (too much fear)
Insensibility (too little pleasure)	Temperance	Self-indulgence (too much pleasure)
Meanness or Stinginess (too little giving)	Liberality	Prodigality or Wastefulness (too much giving)
Stinginess (in giving out large sums of money)	Magnificence	Tastelessness and Vulgarity (giving out large sums)
Undue Humility (too little honor)	Proper Pride	Empty Vanity (too much honor)
Inirascibility (too little anger)	Good Temper	Irascible (too much anger)
Shamelessness (too little shame)	Modesty	Bashfulness (too much shame)
Surliness	Friendliness	Flattery

Other Ethical Principles

Justice

Religion

Rights

Care

Emotivism

Diversity

Egoism

Gender

US DOD Ethical Principles for Artificial Intelligence

1. Responsible

2. Equitable

3. Traceable

4. Reliable

5. Governable

Ethical Decision-Making Framework

Step 1:

What are your first impressions?

Step 2:

Do you have the relevant facts of who, what, where, and when?

Step 3:

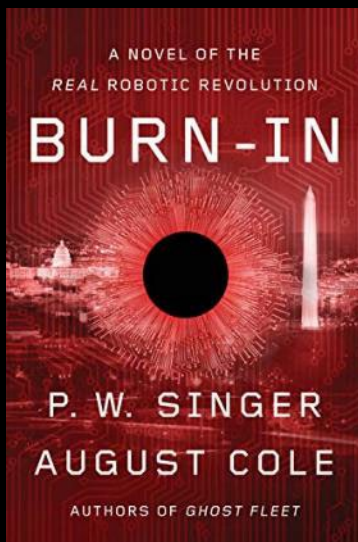**What are various opinions on the issues and arguments used to support them?**
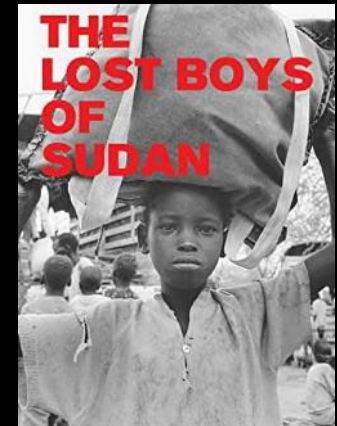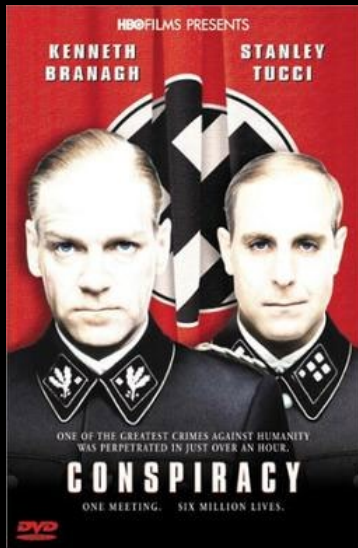
Step 4:

Is your thinking open?

Step 5:

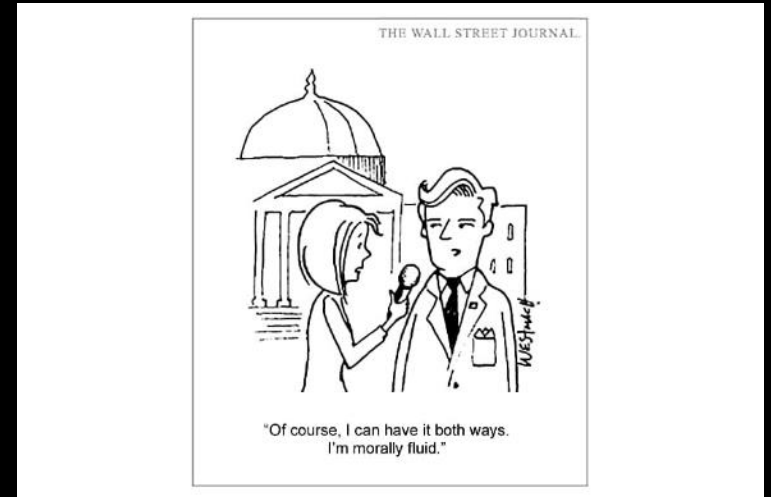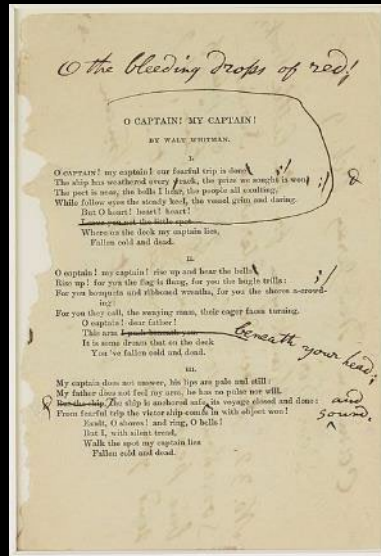**Can you precisely express your decision and explain the reasoning for it?**

Ethics Exercises

- Technology: Synthetic Biotechnology – CSA9 CRISPR

- Geopolitical: Russia – Ukraine Conflict

- Environmental: Food Insecurity – Climate Change

- Information – Disinformation

- Warfighter Enhancement – Army Cognitive Test

Ethics & Arts

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