



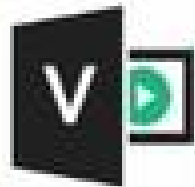
ETHICS AND CULTURE (HUM 103)

ETHICS AND MORALITY:

AN INTRODUCTION

LECTURE BY RIAZ P KHAN

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A man without ethics is a wild beast loosed upon the world (Albert Camus)

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle (Socrates)

The most important human endeavor is the striving for morality in all our actions (Albert Einstein)

What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others (Analects of Confucius)

We are what we repeatedly do.

Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit (Aristotle)

- Ethics and humanity
- As a philosophical discipline, originated in the teachings of Laozi and Kongzi in ancient China over 2,500 years ago
- In the western tradition, ethics is traced back to the teachings of Socrates and the Sophists in ancient Greece over 2,000 years ago

Ethics is the philosophical study of morality. It is a study of what are good and bad ends to pursue in life and what 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. (John Deigh, *Introduction to Ethics*, 2010: 7)

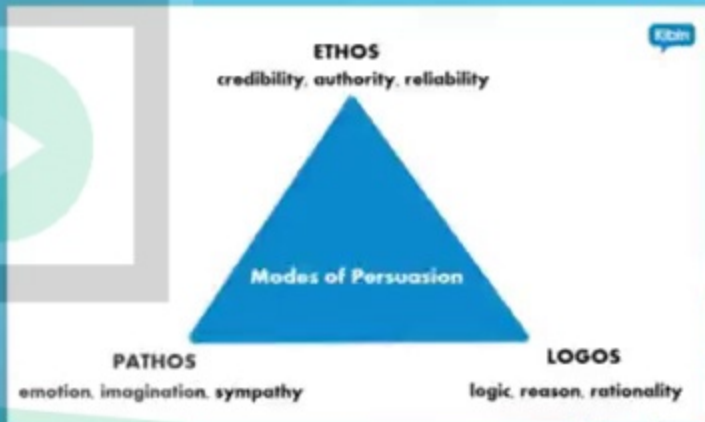
1. **Morality** consists of the standards that an individual or a group has about what is right or wrong, or good and evil. (Manuel Velazquez, 432)
2. **Morality** [consists of] standards of right and wise conduct whose authority in practical thought is *determined by reason rather than custom*. (John Deigh, 10)

The word **Ethics** derived from Greek word *Ethos*

- A mode of persuasion
- Two meanings
 - *Character* (singular)
 - *Custom* (plural).

The word **Moral** comes from Latin word *Moralis*

- Greek term *ethos* translated as *moralis, mores*
- Again, two meanings
 - *Character* (singular)
 - *Custom* (plural)



Fields/Types of Ethical Inquiry

- *Descriptive Ethics*
 - Describes what a group actually believes to be right or wrong
- *Normative Ethics*
 - What ought to be the case, the way we should live
- *Metaethics*
 - Status of normative ethics – is normative ethics possible?
- *Applied Ethics*
 - Ethical/moral dilemmas that arise in different fields or areas of personal or professional life

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