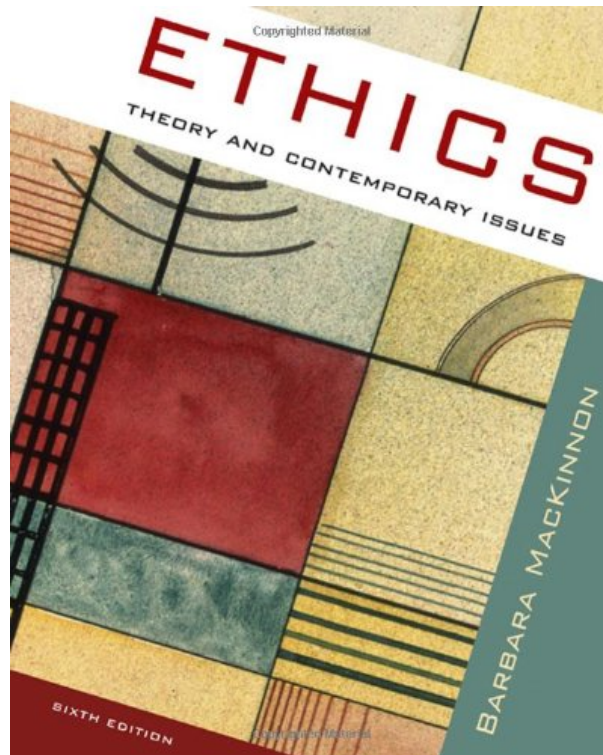
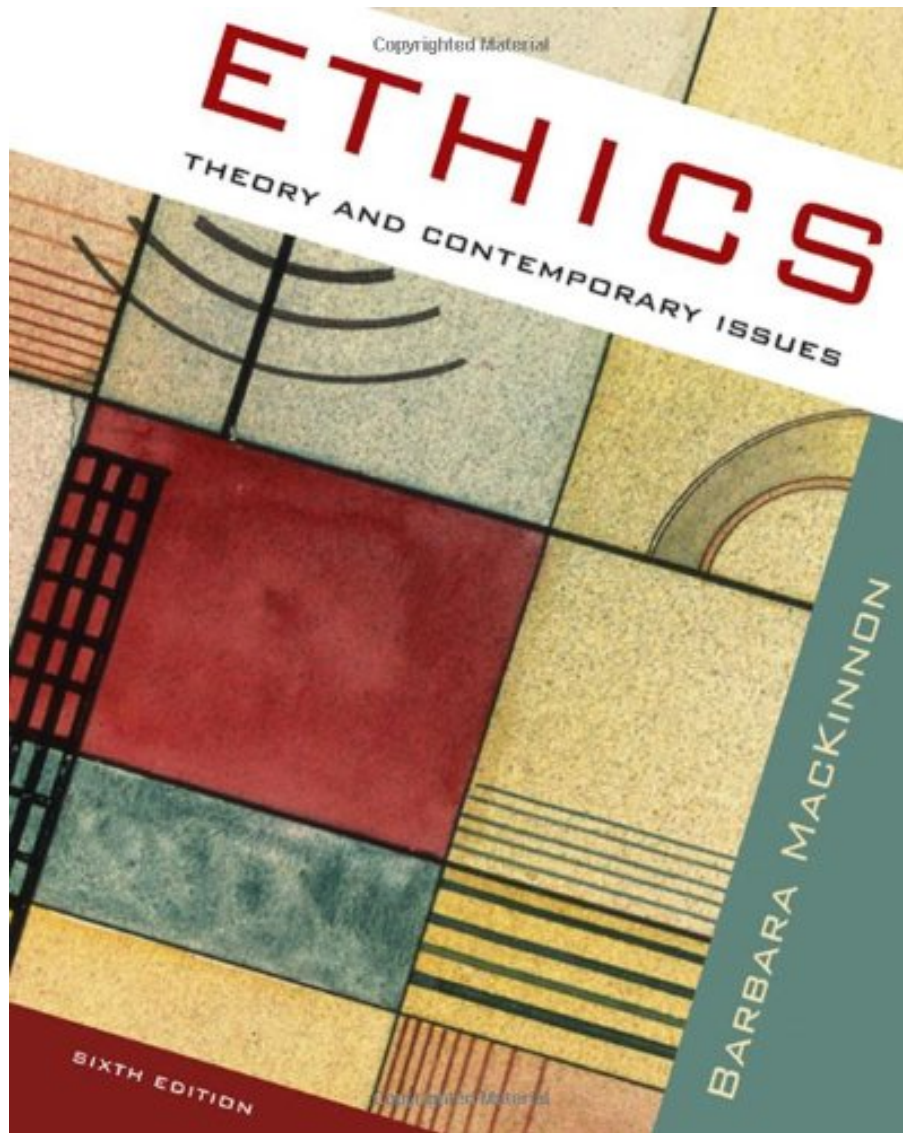


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Great even for a beginner exploring many of today's ethical issues

By Jules

I used this textbook in an undergraduate Communication Ethics course last year. It very helpful in introducing me to the study of ethics and how it fits into today's issues.

The book is divided into two parts: Ethical Theory (chapters 1-7) and Ethical Issues (chapters 8-19). The first part of the book actually gives you the "tools" to better discuss the issues raised in the chapters of the second part.

At the end of the book there is even a short appendix and sample ethics paper. This section helps the average student who is unfamiliar with the structure and reasoning behind a formal ethics paper.

I especially liked the way some of the chapters began with scenarios that helped tie in each ethical theory to dilemmas we face everyday. It made it easier to understand and relate the thoughts of Kant and Aristotle to today's average person and the decisions they make-- their "moral dilemmas" and such.

Bottom line...well-organized, great for undergrads, an excellent source, and you probably use more everyday ethics than you think you do...

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

Great Resource for Intro Ethics

By esselle

I choose MacKinnon's 4th edition of this text, while in search of one that would work well for online instruction. I have since moved on to the current edition, which contains a few, but what I consider, significant and useful changes and expansions from the 4th.

For a lower division introductory course in ethics, I've found this text exceptionally useful. From an online perspective, I find it straightforward, clear, and concise. Whether used as the essential core resource, as a structural component from which to build and expand, or as a supplement, I think MacKinnon's text well worth consideration.

I read through quite a number (or as my daughter would say, 'mass quantities') of texts before making the decision to go with MacKinnon. While this text isn't the only resource I use in my courses, I do use it as the framework around which they are designed and built. Highly recommended from this online instructor!

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Well Written and Very Complete Book on Ethics

By Frederick S. Goethel

My daughter took an ethics course at a local community college this semester and this book was the textbook. As I was interested, I read along with the class (and even more) as the semester progressed.

The book is broken into 2 main sections: Ethical Theory and Ethical Issues. The first part contains the theory of ethics from a number of standpoints, including Relativism, Egoism, Utilitarianism, Kant's Theories and Natural Law. The second section is filled with discussions of ethical issues of today including pornography, euthanasia, abortion, sexual morality, environmentalism, animal rights, stem cell research and much more.

The book is comprehensive and very well written. It is easy to follow and gives latitude in the areas of ethics that are discussed. Finally, there is a sample ethics paper in the rear, making this a very comprehensive and useful textbook.

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Review

PREFACE. HISTORY OF ETHICS TIME LINE. PART I: ETHICAL THEORY. 1. Ethics and Ethical Reasoning. Why Study Ethics? Metaethics. What Is Ethics? Ethics and Religion. Ethical and Other Types of Evaluation. Ethical Terms. Ethics and Reasons. Alternate Theories: Intuitionism and Emotivism. Ethical Reasoning and Arguments. The Structure of Ethical Reasoning and Argument. Evaluating and Making Good Arguments. Ethical Theory. Types of Ethical Theory. Can Ethics Be Taught? READINGS: Plato Euthyphro. C. L. Stevenson The Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms. Review Exercises. 2. Ethical Relativism. What Is Ethical Relativism? Two Forms of Ethical Relativism. Strong Versus Weak Interpretations of Ethical Relativism. Reasons Supporting Ethical Relativism. The Diversity of Moral Views. Moral Uncertainty. Situational Differences. Are These Reasons Convincing? The Diversity of Moral Views. Moral Uncertainty. Situational Differences. Further Considerations. Moral Realism. Moral Pluralism. READINGS: Mary Midgley Trying Out One's New Sword. Friedrich Nietzsche Master and Slave Moralities. Review Exercises. 3. Egoism. Psychological Egoism. What Is Psychological Egoism? Is Psychological Egoism True? Ethical Egoism. What Is Ethical Egoism? Is Ethical Egoism a Good Theory? The Moral Point of View. Why Be Moral? READINGS: Plato The Ring of Gyges. Thomas Hobbes Self Love. Review Exercises. 4. Utilitarianism. Historical Background. Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill. The Principle of Utility. A Consequentialist Principle. The Intrinsic Good: Pleasure or Happiness. Calculating the Greatest Amount of Happiness. Quantity and Quality of Pleasure. Evaluating Utilitarianism. Application of the Principle. Utilitarianism and Personal Integrity. Ends and Means. The Trolley Problem. Act and Rule Utilitarianism. "Proof" of the Theory. READINGS: Jeremy Bentham An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation(1789). John Stuart Mill Utilitarianism. Review Exercises. 5. Kant's Moral Theory. Historical Background: Immanuel Kant. What Gives an Act Moral Worth? What Is the Right Motive? What Is the Right Thing to Do? The Categorical Imperative. The First Form. The Second Form. Evaluating Kant's Moral Theory. The Nature of Moral Obligation. The Application of the Categorical Imperative. Duty. Moral Equality and Impartiality. Perfect and Imperfect Duties. Variations on Kantian Moral Theory. READING: Immanuel Kant Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysic of Morals. Review Exercises. 6. Contractarianism. READINGS: Thomas Hobbes, The Leviathan. T. M. Scanlon Contractualism and Utilitarianism. 7. Morality and Human Nature. Natural Law Theory. What Kind of Law Is Natural Law? Historical Origins: Aristotle. Nature, Human Nature, and the Human Good. Evaluating Natural Law Theory. Natural Rights. Evaluating Natural Rights Theory. Is There a Human Nature. READINGS: Thomas Aquinas On Natural Law. John Locke Second Treatise of Civil Government. Jean-Paul Sartre Existentialism Is a Humanism. Review Exercises. 8. Virtue Ethics. Virtues and Everyday Life. What Is Virtue? Evaluating Virtue Ethics. READINGS: Aristotle The Nicomachean Ethics. Philippa Foot Virtues and Vices. Review Exercises. 9. Feminist Thought and The Ethics of Care. An Ethics of Care. Is There a Gender Difference in

Morality? The Source of Feminine Morality. Feminine Versus Masculine Morality. Feminist Thought. Evaluation of Feminist Thought and the Ethics of Care. READINGS: Nel Noddings Caring. Annette Baier The Need for More than Justice. Review Exercises. PART II: ETHICAL ISSUES 1. 10. Euthanasia. Brain Death, Coma, and Persistent Vegetative State. Meaning and Types of Euthanasia. Active and Passive Euthanasia. Physician-Assisted Suicide. Pain Medication That Causes Death. Ordinary and Extraordinary Measures. Voluntary and Nonvoluntary Euthanasia. Combining the Types of Euthanasia. Morality and the Law. Making Moral Judgments About Euthanasia. The Moral Significance of Voluntariness. Active Versus Passive Euthanasia. Ordinary Versus Extraordinary Measures. Infant Euthanasia. READINGS: J. Gay-Williams The Wrongfulness of Euthanasia. James Rachels Active and Passive Euthanasia. Carl B. Becker Buddhist Views of Suicide and Euthanasia. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 11. Abortion. Stages of Fetal Development. Methods of Abortion. Abortion and the Law. Abortion: The Moral Question. Arguments That Do Not Depend on the Moral Status of the Fetus. Utilitarian Reasoning. Some Rights Arguments. Arguments That Depend on the Moral Status of the Fetus. Method I. Method II. READINGS: Judith Jarvis Thomson A Defense of Abortion. Don Marquis Why Abortion Is Immoral. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 12. Sexual Morality. Conceptual Problems: What Is and Is Not Sexual. Relevant Factual Matters. Sexual Morality and Ethical Theories. Consequentialist or Utilitarian Considerations. Nonconsequentialist or Kantian Considerations. Naturalness Considerations. Homosexuality. Prostitution. READINGS: D. P. Verene Sexual Love and Moral Experience. Richard D. Mohr Prejudice and Homosexuality. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 13. Equality and Discrimination. Civil Rights Laws: A Brief History. Racism and Sexism. The Principle of Equality. Justice. Social Benefits and Harms. Proof. Real Differences. Relevant Differences. Challenges to the Principle. Affirmative Action and Preferential Treatment. Consequentialist Considerations. Nonconsequentialist Considerations. READINGS: Robert K. Fullinwider Affirmative Action and Fairness. Martin Luther King Jr. Letter from the Birmingham Jail. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 14. Economic Justice. Income Inequality. Health Care 283. Justice, Charity, and Efficiency. Process Distributive Justice. End State Distributive Justice. Equal Opportunity. Political and Economic Theories. Libertarianism. Capitalism. Socialism. Modern Liberalism. John Rawls's Theory of Justice. Communitarianism. READINGS: John Rawls Justice as Fairness. Robert Nozick Distributive Justice. Amartya Sen The Idea of Justice. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 15. Legal Punishment. The Nature of Legal Punishment. The Deterrence Argument. Problematic Aspects. The Retributivist Argument. Problematic Aspects. Punishment and Responsibility. The Death Penalty. On Deterrence Grounds. On Retributivist Grounds. Other Concerns. READINGS: Ernest van den Haag The Ultimate Punishment: A Defense. Hugo Bedau How to Argue About the Death Penalty. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 16. Environmental Ethics. The Environment. Value. Anthropocentrism. Cost-Benefit Analysis. Human Environmental Impact. Ecocentrism. Deep Ecology. Ecofeminism. Sustainable Development. READINGS: William F. Baxter People or Penguins: The Case for Optimal Pollution. Bill Devall and George Sessions Deep Ecology. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 17. Animal Rights. Sentience. Animal Rights. Animal Experimentation. Endangered Species. READINGS: Peter Singer All Animals Are Equal. Bonnie Steinbock Speciesism and the Idea of Equality. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 18. Stem Cell Research, Cloning, and Genetic Engineering. Stem Cell Research. Legal and Ethical Issues. Human Cloning. Therapeutic Cloning. Reproductive Cloning. Ethical Issues. Genetic Engineering. Ethical Issues. Genetically Modified Plants and Animals. Ethical Issues. Genetic Screening. The Value of Privacy. Screening and Conflicts of Interest. READINGS: Leon R. Kass The Wisdom of Repugnance. Kerry Lynn Macintosh Illegal Beings: Human Clones and the Law. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 19. Violence, Terrorism, and War. Violence. Terrorism. Ethical Issues. Pacifism. Just War Theory. Jus ad Bellum. Jus in Bello. Non-Traditional Military Conflicts. Weapons of Mass Destruction. War Crimes and Universal Human Rights. Torture. READINGS: Jean Bethke Elshtain What Is a Terrorist? Michael Walzer The Triumph of Just War Theory (and the Dangers of Success). Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. 20. Global Issues and Globalization. Rich and Poor Nations. Causes. Some Solutions. Ethical Considerations. Globalization. Values. Free-Market Capitalism. Modernization. READINGS: Peter Singer Famine, Affluence, and Morality. Herman E. Daly

Globalization and Its Discontents. Vandana Shiva Principles of Earth Democracy. Review Exercises. Discussion Cases. APPENDIX: How to Write an Ethics Paper. The Content of the Paper. The Paper's Structure. Format. Grammar, Spelling, and Gender. Types of Ethics Papers. A Historical Approach. A Problem in Ethical Theory. A Contemporary Moral Issue. Is It an Ethics Paper? Structuring or Analyzing an Ethical Argument. Reasons and Conclusions. Types and Sources of Evidence. Types of Reasons. Top-to-Bottom or Bottom-to-Top Reasoning? Using Analogies. Sample Ethics Papers. Historical Approach. A Problem in Ethical Theory. A Contemporary Ethical Issue.

About the Author

Barbara MacKinnon is a professor emerita of philosophy at the University of San Francisco. During her 30 years of teaching, her instruction and writing focused primarily on the history of ethics and contemporary ethical issues. She enjoys reading widely, playing the piano, and traveling.

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