

Ethics, Deontology & Intellectual property

What is Ethics? Is it ethical?

- **Terminology**

- Ethics: (Fr:Etiques)
- In Arabic can have many translations; according to Almaany English Arabic Dictionary (Ar: الأخلاق, الآداب, خلق) it can be also (قواعد السلوك).

- **Definitions**

- Ethics: from the Greek word **Ethos** which means **character** that is related to the individual character of a person.
- **Oxford dictionary**: moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity. It is the branch of knowledge that deals with **moral principles**. (معنوي؛ مغزي, السلوك الأخلاقي, المبادئ الأخلاقية).
- In philosophy, ethics is also used to refer to the area of morality, which concentrates on **human conduct** and **human values**.



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Source: <https://www.scu.edu/mobi/resources--tools/blog-posts/ethics-in-life-and-business>



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- **Ethical issues examples:**
- **Perspective-taking:** is a useful skill when it comes to ethical situations; understanding someone else/others point of view rather than casting them (example:students) as bad, seek to understand the reasons behind their actions of not attending course/module with low coefficient.
- **Internet Censorship:** Censorship can protect individuals from harmful content, but it also risks violation upon freedom of speech and freedom to access information. The question becomes who should control this, who has the rights to manage this and how far it should go to prevent AI (Artificial Intelligence) misinformation and disinformation which is ranked as 2nd risk in the global risk profile 2024*.

*: (<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/top-global-risks-in-2024>)



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What is Deontology?

- **Terminology**

- Deontology: (Fr: déontologie).
- In Arabic can have many translations; according to Almaany English Arabic Dictionary (علم الأخلاقيات, علم الواجبات , أعراف المهنة: Ar).

- **Definitions**

- Deontology: is derived from the Greek **deon**, “duty,” and **logos**, “science.”
- **Collins dictionary**: the branch of ethics dealing with duty, moral obligation, and **moral commitment**.



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What is Deontology?

- Deontology from philosophers point of view like Immanuel Kant believed that ethical rules and/or actions follow universal moral laws, such as “Don't lie. Don't steal. Don't cheat.”
- It is an ethical theory that suggest an individual should act based on what they believe to be morally right, regardless of the consequences. It just requires that people commit to the rules and do their duty, as a result it is easy to apply.
- Kant also said: Morals principles are not dependent on their consequences.
- It has practical aim, wherein it intends to define a common set of rules, recommendations and procedures for a given professional practice*.
- It aims at regulating the activities of a certain profession and, therefore, constitutes a better conducting code that defines a professional identity*.

*(From: University charter of deontology and ethics, MESRS 2023- Algeria)



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- **Deontology Examples**

Humility (التواضع): Showing modesty and not taking credit for something you don't deserve. It would be wrong to accept a prize when you feel someone else did better.

Respect: Showing respect to others by honoring their wishes and beliefs, even if you disagree with them. If a friend asks you not to talk about a specific subject, it would be wrong to disregard this wish.

Responsibility: Taking responsibility for your actions and accepting the consequences, no matter how unfavorable results. Supposed that you damage someone's property, it would be wrong to hide the deed (إخفاء الفعل) or blame someone else for your mistake.

(extracted from: <https://helpfulprofessor.com/deontology-examples/>).



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- **Deontology Examples**
- **Fairness(الإنصاف):** Making sure everyone is treated fairly, regardless of their race, religion, or gender. If a company is hiring new employees, it would be wrong to discriminate against any particular group of people.
- **Integrity(استقامة, نزاهة):** Being honest and consistent in your behavior and beliefs. It would be wrong to act one way with your friends and another way when you are around strangers.
- **Gratitude(امتنان):** Showing appreciation for generosity and kindness, even if you don't see the immediate benefit. For instance, when someone gives you a gift, it would be wrong not to say thank you or at least show appreciation.

(extracted from: <https://helpfulprofessor.com/deontology-examples/>).