Kantian Ethics critics

E & D Teaching Calendar 2023-2024

Exams	Holiday	Dec	Nov	Oct	sept
07 Jan **16Jan**	**23 Dec** **07Jan**	3	4	1	24 Kick off L
		10	12	8	
		17	19	15	
			26	22	
				29	
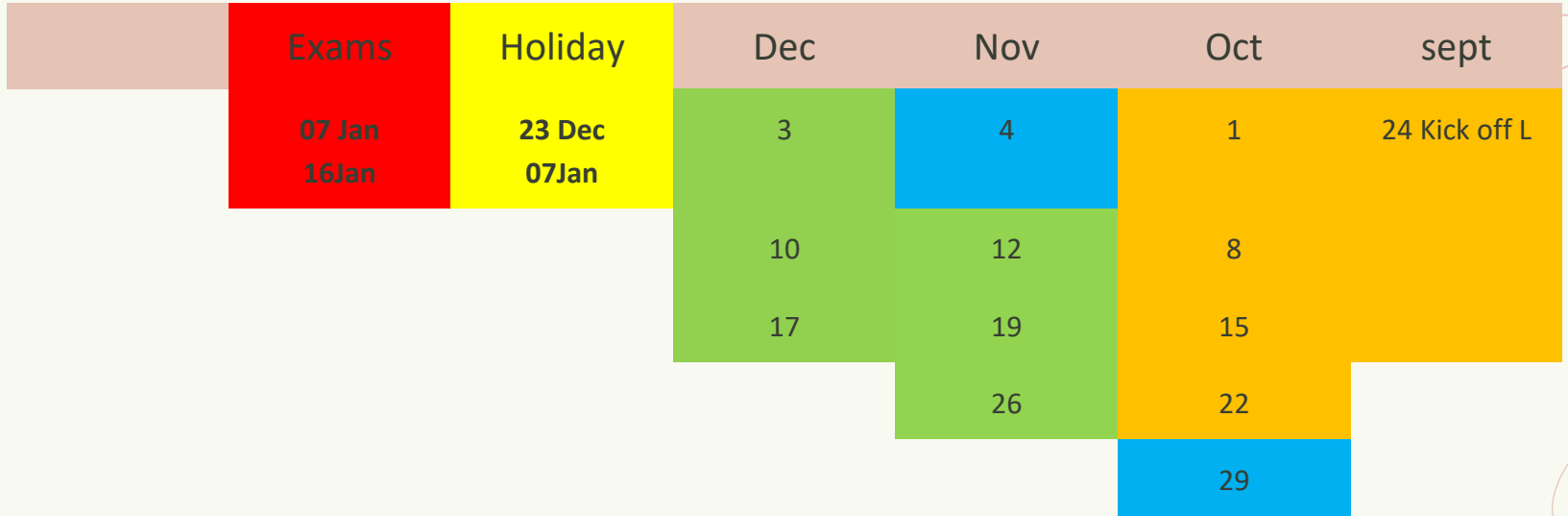
Ethical issues and professionalism

Ethical issues in academia ducational research

Theoretical accounts

CI–1 simplified

- CI-1 is a moral principle suggests that when evaluating the morality of an action, you should test whether the maxim guiding that action can be universalized without **contradictions.** To do this:

Summary of CI–1

1.Examine the maxim:

Understand the principle behind your action.

2.Apply the Universalization Test (i): Check if everyone could follow this maxim without creating contradictions.

3.Apply the willing Test (ii): Determine if you genuinely want this maxim to become a universal law without any contradictions.

Summary of CI–1

If the maxim passes both tests (i) and (ii), the action is morally **permissible**; if it fails either, it's morally **impermissible**.

NBIt's important to note that CI-1 doesn't exclusively define what is moral, and not all maxims that pass are inherently moral. Maxims must be **universalizable** and based on **genuine will**.

Practice:Analyse the following acts

Example: Taking Sick Leaves Frequently:

Maxim: "Whenever I feel slightly unwell, I should take a sick leave from the university."

CI-1 Test:

(i): Fails, as if everyone did this, it would strain university resources and <u>affect the quality of education</u>.

(ii): Fails because willing this maxim as a universal law <u>would harm the overall educational process and institutional functioning</u>.

Conclusion: Taking sick leaves frequently for minor ailments is morally impermissible.

Practice:Analyse the following acts

Example 2 - Copying Homework:
In a university town, Sarah, a committed student, confronted an imminent assignment deadline. Struggling to meet the rigorous demands, she resorted to covertly reproducing her friend Alex's academic work, which he had willingly shared. This choice led to a resounding success, as Sarah excelled in the assignment.
Nonetheless, this triumph was tinged with remorse, as the weight of guilt pressed upon her. Sarah now faced a formidable decision, one that would profoundly impact her academic journey: should she uphold the principles of honesty and integrity, or continue down the path of academic deception?

Practice:Analyse the following acts

Example 2 - Copying Homework:

Maxim: "Whenever I am running out of time or struggling with homework, I should copy my classmates' work without their knowledge."

Practice:Analyse the following acts

Example 2 - Copying Homework:

Maxim: "Whenever I am running out of time or struggling with homework, should copy my classmates' work without their knowledge."

CI-1 Test:

(i): **if everyone did this,** it would **…………………………………….**

(ii): **willing this maxim** as a **universal law ………………………….**

Conclusion: Copying homework without consent is morally impermissible/ permissible.

Practice:Analyse the following acts

Example 2 - Copying Homework:

Maxim: "Whenever I am running out of time or struggling with homework, should copy my classmates' work without their knowledge."

CI-1 Test:

(i): Fails, **as if everyone did this,** it would **devalue the educational process, render individual learning meaningless, and create an unfair system.**

(ii): Fails because **willing this maxim** as a universal **law would undermine** the purpose of education and fair evaluation.

Conclusion: Copying homework without consent is morally impermissible.

Practice:Analyse the following acts

Example 3 - Spreading False Rumors:

Maxim: "Whenever I hear gossip or rumors about a classmate, I should spread them, even if they might be false or harmful."

(i): if everyone did this, it would ……………………………………………………….

(ii): Fails because willing this maxim as a universal law would

…………………………………………………………………………………

Conclusion: Spreading false rumors about classmates is morally impermiss

Practice:Analyse the following acts

Key Answer

Example 3 - Spreading False Rumors:

Maxim: "Whenever I hear gossip or rumors about a classmate, I should spread them, even if they might be false or harmful."

(i): if everyone did this, it would lead **to a toxic and untrustworthy environment, damaging interpersonal relationships and personal reputations**.

(ii): Fails because willing this maxim as a universal law would **undermine trust and respect among classmates**.

Conclusion: Spreading false rumors about classmates is morally impermiss

Explaining Kant's Moral Theory and Its Challenges

Problem: Conflicting Duties

conflicting duties occur when an individual faces situations where two or more moral duties or principles appear to be in opposition to each other.
Kant's ethical framework emphasizes that individuals should:

Problem: Conflicting Duties

- adhere to moral rules without **exception**, which can lead to conflicting duties.
- carefully consider the specific circumstances and prioritize duties based on **rational moral reasoning**.
- It's not about choosing one duty over another but rather finding **the morally justifiable** course of action in complex situations.

Problem: Conflicting Duties

Conflicting Duties

Dilemma when moral duties clash

No Hierarchy of Duties

Kant rejects prioritizing one duty over another

Moral Responsibility

Individuals must follow all moral duties

Problem: Conflicting Duties

- *All these aspects highlight the need for **nuanced moral judgment** when duties appear to clash*

Problem: Conflicting Duties

- Imagine you're hiding Jewish students in your campus room, and the police officer asks if you're hiding them. What are the main duties clash?

Problem: Conflicting Duties

❑ According to Kant's theory, you have a duty **not to lie**, but does this mean you must reveal the secret?

❑ Kant's theory doesn't require you to tell the truth but not to lie. You might **<u>stay silent</u>** instead of lying

Problem: Conflicting Duties

❑ Example: If you *remain silent* when the police officer questions you, **you're not lying**, and according to Kant, **you're not morally wrong**.

❑ However, in certain situations, like in a court under oath, staying silent may not be an option.

Problem: Conflicting Duties

☐ Response:However, in certain situations, like in a court under oath, **staying silent** may not be an option

Problem: Conflicting Duties

▣ **Silence as Lying**

silence can be deceptive

▣ **Duty to Speak**

Moral obligation to communicate the truth

Problem: Conflicting Duties

- Example: If you *remain silent* when the police officer questions you, **you're not lying**, and according to Kant, **<u>you're not morally wrong</u>**.
- However, in certain situations, like in a court under oath, staying silent may not be an option.
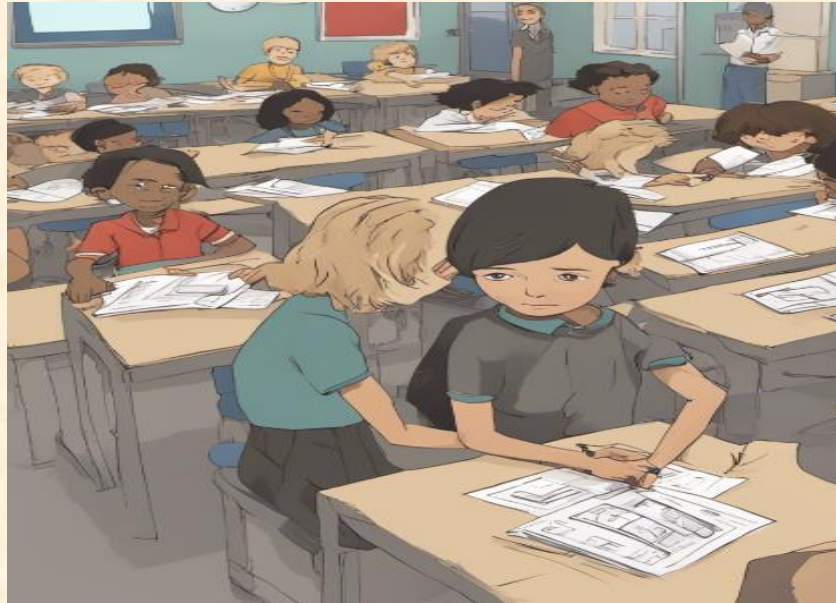
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Problem: Conflicting Duties examples

- **Teacher's Duty to Fair Grading vs. Compassion:**

Problem: Conflicting Duties examples

- A teacher may face a conflict between **the duty to grade students objectively** and fairly and the duty **to show compassion to a student** who is dealing with a personal crisis. Balancing these duties while maintaining **academic integrity** can be challenging

Problem: Conflicting Duties examples

❑ **student's Duty to Study vs. Social Responsibility:**

❑ **Which Duty do you prioritize?**

Problem: Conflicting Duties examples

- **student's Duty to Study vs. Social Responsibility:** A student might feel torn between the duty to **excel academically** (spending time studying) and **the duty to participate in social activities that benefit the community.**

Problem: Categorical Imperatives and Etiquette

- **Etiquette rules can also be categorical but <u>not grounded in reason</u>**

Philippa Foot

virtue ethics,

Problem: Categorical Imperatives and Etiquette

- **Response 02: Kantian morality must provide independent reasons to ground categorical "oughts" in reason rather than cultural practices.**

Problem: Categorical Imperatives and Etiquette

- **Example : A friend wearing a tracksuit to a funeral goes against etiquette, but it's not reasoned through; it's about personal preference.**

Problem: Categorical Imperatives and Etiquette

❏ **CAN YOU wear this in academic conference?**

Problem: Categorical Imperatives and Etiquette

- **Response 02: Kantian morality must provide independent reasons to ground categorical "oughts" in reason rather than cultural practices.**

Problem: The Domain of Morality

Imagine You are a teacher, your student is doning this action. Prescribe whether this act is moral or immoral according to Kant. justify

ProbProblem: The Domain of Morality

☐ **Kant's theory implies that non-rational agents, like animals, don't have rights.**

☐ **Example: Kant's theory doesn't support the idea of moral obligations toward non-rational agents, such as kicking a cat.**

Problem: Categorical Imperatives and Etiquette

Rigidity of Rules: Critics argue that Kantian ethics can be overly rigid and rule-based. It may not sufficiently accommodate the nuances and complexities of real-life situations. For instance, *adhering strictly to the duty not to lie*, as Kant suggests, might sometimes lead to morally questionable outcomes, such as *revealing confidential information that could harm others*.

critics

- **Insufficient Guidance:**
- **Neglect of Consequences**
- **Balancing Autonomy and Duty: especially in cases where personal judgment and moral rules appear to conflict.**
- **Insufficient Guidance.**
- **Neglect of Consequences**
- **Balancing Autonomy and Duty.**

Storytelly corner

Speak about :

1. **State some examples of Imperatives in Islam.**

Storytelly corner

Speak about :

2.Kant believed that our moral duties were directed toward rational agents, and he did not extend these duties to animals.

"Speak with pride about the ethical treatment of animals in Islam."

Storytelly corner

Speak about :

3. Are you a student juggling both your education and a job? Well, we'd love to hear your personal tips on how you handle those tricky situations when your duties clash! Your experiences and insights could be incredibly helpful to fellow students facing the same challenges.

So, go ahead and share your own strategies for dealing with conflicting duties – let's learn from each other's wisdom!

Examples of imperatives in Islam

وَٱقۡصِدۡ فِى مَشۡيِكَ وَٱغۡضُضۡ مِن صَوۡتِكَۚ إِنَّ أَنكَرَ ٱلۡأَصۡوَٰتِ لَصَوۡتُ ٱلۡحَمِيرِ ﴿١٩﴾

"And be moderate in your pace and lower your voice; indeed, the most disagreeable of sounds is the voice of donkeys.... But of the people is he who disputes about Allah without knowledge or guidance or an enlightening Book." (31:19-20)

Examples of imperatives in Islam

Example: Etiquettes of Speaking In Islam

"Say with your mouth what is in your heart."

Examples of imperatives in Islam

Example: Etiquettes of Speaking In Islam

1. "Begin by greeting people.
2. Giving an introduction before coming to the main subject.
3. Speaking at a slow pace.
4. Emphasizing important things by repeating them.
5. Facing the speaker.
6. Allowing elders/ most knowledgeable to speak first.
7. Do not cut others while they are speaking.

Storytelly corner

Speak about :

2.Kant believed that our moral duties were directed toward rational agents, and he did not extend these duties to animals.

"Speak with pride about the ethical treatment of animals in Islam."

Storytelly corner

In Islam, the treatment of animals is guided by religious principles, including the concept of stewardship and compassion for all of God's creation. While Islam places humans above other creatures in the hierarchy of creation, it emphasizes the importance of humane and ethical treatment of animals. Islamic teachings promote kindness and care for animals.
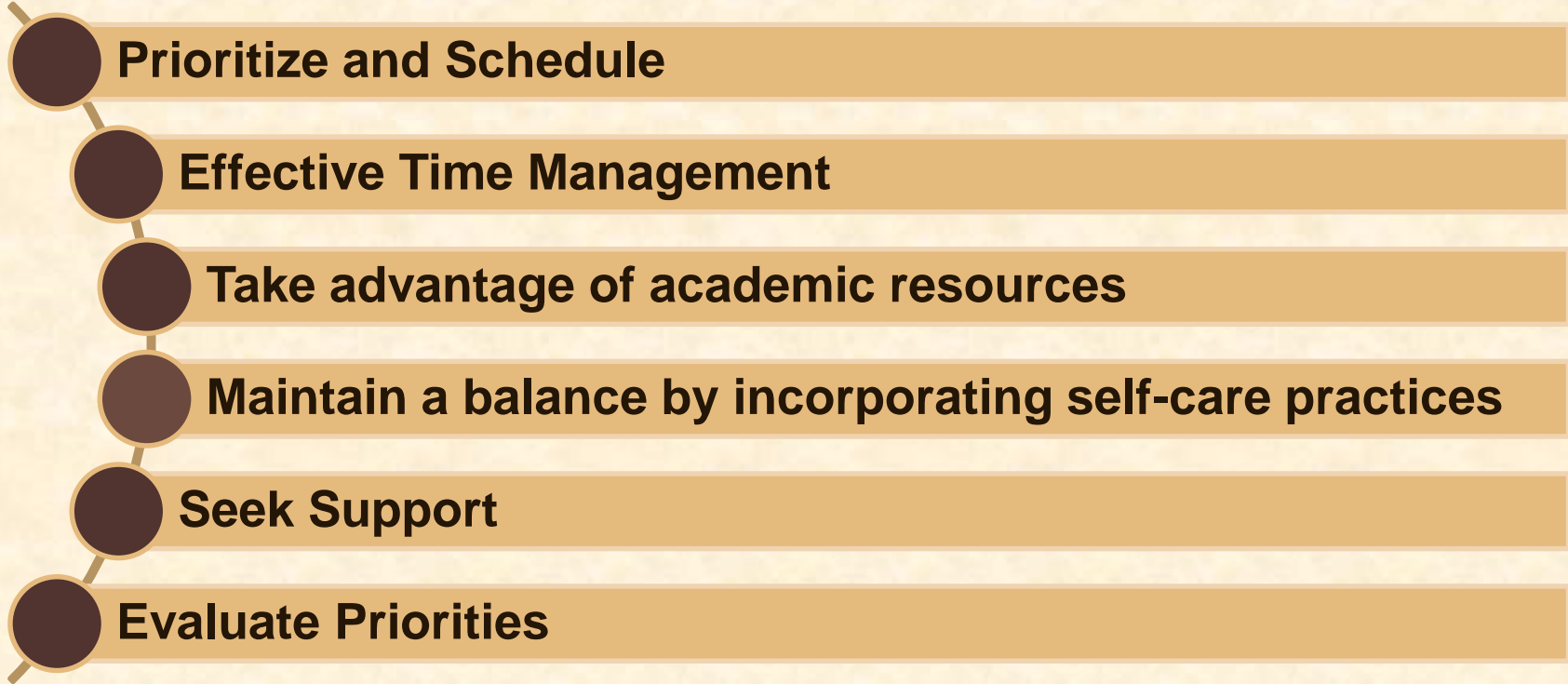
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Speak about :

Are you a student juggling both your education and a job? Well, we'd love to hear your personal tips on how you handle those tricky situations when your duties clash! Your experiences and insights could be incredibly helpful to fellow students facing the same challenges.

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Dealing with Conflicting Duties

- Prioritize and Schedule
- Effective Time Management
- Take advantage of academic resources
- Maintain a balance by incorporating self-care practices
- Seek Support
- Evaluate Priorities

Thank
you