

BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

The Domain of Ethics

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Reading

- James Rachels & Stuart Rachels, "What is Morality?"

Questions

1. According to Rachels and Rachels, what does moral philosophy seek to better understand? (Hint: they quote Socrates on this matter.)
2. What do Rachels and Rachels believe we can learn from discussing cases like those presented in sections 1.2 through 1.4? In particular, what do these cases reveal about the role of reason and impartiality in morality?
3. Putting all this together, what do Rachels and Rachels mean by the "minimum conception of morality"? How does it apply to the cases like those from sections 1.2 through 1.4?