Moral decision-making is part and parcel of human life. In this class, we will consider such decision-making from three different angles:

First, from the point of view of normative ethical theories, which seek to explain what makes good actions good and bad actions bad (or: right actions right and wrong actions wrong). We will consider divine command theory, virtue ethics, Kantian deontology, utilitarianism, Rossian deontology, and the ethics of care.

Second, from the point of view of what makes a life go well, where we will consider possible connections between well-being and being moral. We will engage very old and very new work on this topic.

Third, from the point of view of moral dilemmas, which – if they exist – present a range of considerations beyond “getting it right”. We will consider whether moral dilemmas exist, and what it should mean for us as moral decision-makers if they do.

Typically, class will consist of an introductory lecture (first hour) and discussion of the readings (second hour). There will be some exceptions, as when in-class activities of other types are scheduled. Students are expected to complete the readings in advance and take an active role in the discussion.