# **Ethics**

## Theory and Practice

**Updated Eleventh Edition** 

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College of DuPage



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**Printer/Binder:** RRD-Willard **Cover Printer:** Phoenix Color

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#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Thiroux, Jacques P., author. | Krasemann, Keith W., author.

Title: Ethics: theory and practice / Jacques P. Thiroux, Keith W. Krasemann.

Description: 11 [edition]. | Hoboken: Pearson, 2016. | Includes bibliographical references and index. Identifiers: LCCN 2016002768 | ISBN 9780134010175 (alk. paper) | ISBN 0134010175 (alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Ethics—Textbooks. | Ethical problems—Textbooks.

Classification: LCC BJ1012 .T47 2016 | DDC 170—dc23 LC record available at http://lccn.loc.gov/2016002768

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN-10: 0-13-401020-5 ISBN-13: 978-0-13-401020-5

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## **Preface**

The fundamental issues in today's rapidly changing and globally expanding world are ethical. Leadership in such a world demands courage, commitment, character, and good ethical reasoning skills to address these challenges head on. Accordingly, the importance of teaching ethics in higher education has never been greater. With this updated eleventh edition of *Ethics: Theory and Practice*, I wish to acknowledge the significant contributions made by all those involved in the teaching of ethics courses who engage students with these core issues of our time.

In this edition, I have been careful to keep the overall structure of the text and to preserve the many positive features of this book that instructors have adapted for use in their courses. Some of this material has been revised and updated and I expect to continue to make the text more inclusive and relevant. Some of the new material in this edition includes new critical thinking exercises and ethics problems dealing with bullying, cheating, sexual relations between humans and animals, human experimentation, euthanasia in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, rationalizations in business, and selling body parts on Craigslist.

Extensive editing was also done to update the language used in earlier editions of this text. Professor Thiroux wrote liberally in the first person and although this style was pleasing to many readers, comments like "I feel," "I believe," and "I agree" presented a distraction for others. Moreover, these comments gave a bias to the text. After all, the point of the text is to comprehensively survey the ethical landscape, clarify issues and problems, and lay out arguments on all sides in order that students may draw their own conclusions. And, since there are now two authors, the continued use of the first person was needlessly confusing and has been removed from the first sixteen chapters.

A decision was made to leave the use of the first person in the eight appendices: "Applying Humanitarian Ethics to Moral Problems." The Theory of Humanitarian Ethics was one of Jacques Thiroux's key contributions to the field of ethics and to this text. It also represents his attempt to work out and apply a philosophy of life. As such, these appendices represent the views of Thiroux and his use of the personal pronoun is usually accompanied by a justification for his position. Furthermore, because he is working out a philosophy of life, the frequent use of the personal pronoun gives the reader insight into "how" Thiroux is approaching a problem and "how" he is thinking about important issues which is different than "what" he is thinking.

I express my thanks to all the professors and students who for over 30 years have used Jacques Thiroux's text.

It meant a great deal to Jacques that you found this text usable and useful in teaching a topic of such importance. It was a privilege, for me, to be asked aboard as a coauthor for the ninth edition and I know Jacques was very pleased with the many new ideas I brought to that edition. I hope to continue Professor Thiroux's legacy with many new editions.

### Updates to the Edition

The updated 11th edition of *Ethics: Theory and Practice* is focused on enhancing the student learning experience. New features to support student learning include:

- Revised learning objectives placed at the beginning of each chapter.
- Topically appropriate Shared Writing exercises are found at the end of each chapter.
- Statistics, dates and other facts are updated throughout the text.
- Additional materials were added dealing with healthcare, pornography, and the environment.
- Outdated materials were removed.

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**MyTest**—an electronic format of the Test Bank to customize in-class tests or quizzes. Visit: http://www.pearsonhighered.com/mytest.

### Acknowledgments

I would like to thank my editors, Tanimaa Mehra and Aphrodite Knoop. In addition, thanks to Peter Kanetis, Thomas Kulanjiyil, Johnson Lawrence, Joshua Price, and John Santiago, my colleagues at the College of DuPage, and all of the other reviewers who have helped by suggesting changes and appropriate updates. I also wish to extend appreciation to the following students for their insightful questions and suggestions: Ryan A. Palmore, Ivy Tech Community College, Valparaiso, Indiana; Tamara Smith, Canadian University College; Seneca Brookins, Teresa Cruz, Evgenia Diachenko, Meray Estephan, Christine Harman, Laura Kanter, Kayla Lowry, Angela Pumo, Kimberly Rodgers and Cortney Sigilai, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois. Special thanks to Karyin Boulom for helping me with the final copy.

Ethics continues to be one of the more important human endeavors. We must continue debating the issues, allowing for dissent and using the best ethical reasoning we can muster, to deal with the difficult problems of the twenty-first century.

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