

# Integral Ethics

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## Integral Ethics

- Understand how the integral paradigm can be used to classify, unify and better understand various kinds of ethical reasoning and decision-making
- Explore how “integral ethics” can help educators become more conscious of when they (and their students) use differing ethical approaches in different contexts and for various purposes
- Consider how an integral framework can be used to help us be more sensitive and genuinely affirming of ethical approaches that differ from our own, and how such sensitivity might inform our teaching

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“The word integral means comprehensive, inclusive, non-marginalizing, embracing. Integral approaches to any field attempt to be exactly that: to include as many perspectives, styles, and methodologies as possible within a coherent view of the topic. In a certain sense, integral approaches are “meta-paradigms,” or ways to draw together an already existing number of separate paradigms into an interrelated network of approaches that are mutually enriching.”

– Ken Wilber

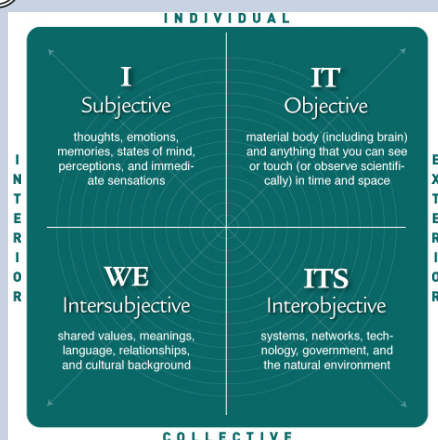
-- from Ken Wilber's "Foreword" in Frank Visser's book, *Ken Wilber: Thought as Passion* (2003), pp. xii-xiii.

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## Integral Health

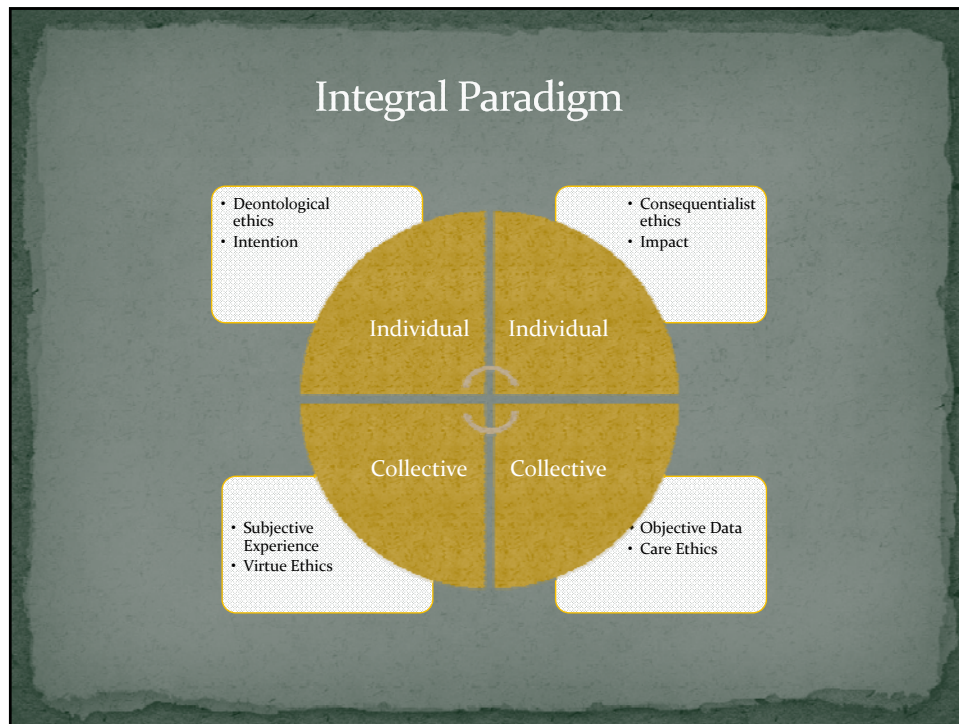
- “Integral means *comprehensive, whole, and balanced*. So, Integral Health can be thought of as *physical health + mental health + healthy relationships + a healthy society*. Or as *biological health + emotional balance + mental clarity + spiritual awakening + community engagement*. Or as *body + mind + soul + relationships + community*. You get the point. An integral approach brings together multiple perspectives in an effort to address the multiple dimensions of human life. There are many other terms used to convey “whole person” approaches to health—like *holistic, integrative, mind/body, and wellness*—and they can more or less be used interchangeably.”



WorldPress. (n.d.). *Integral Health*. Retrieved November 16, 2010, from Integral Health Resources: <http://www.integralhealthresources.com/>

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## self-assessment

Where am I *most* comfortable functioning *most* of the time?

What do I value *most* strongly?

What dimension “trumps” the others when there is a conflict?

## more self-assessment...

When and under what circumstances am I more deontological?

When and under what circumstances am I more individually-oriented?

When and under what circumstances am I more utilitarian? When do certain results “trump” the motivation or intention?

When and under what circumstances am I more contextually-sensitive and open to breaking a rule for a “good” reason?

## What’s the point?

There is good, beauty and truth in each of the four dimensions.

Doesn’t mean everything is relative in the sense that nothing really matters.

Notice how we are all affected by different dimensions at different times and places.

IT ALL MATTERS.



Out beyond ideas of  
Wrong-doing & Right-doing  
There is a field—  
I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass  
the world is too full to talk about.

Ideas, language, even the phrase, each other  
Doesn't make any sense.

—Rumi