Ethics of Prima Facie Duty

pri·ma fa·ci·e
based on the first impression;
accepted as correct until proved otherwise.
"a prima facie case of professional misconduct"
All Things Considered Duty

To say that you have the *prima facie duty* to perform some action is to say that one has some moral reason to perform the action, but the reason in question might be *overridden* by some other moral reason that favors not performing the action.

(p. 68 Conditional Duty)
Four Basic Intrinsic Goods

W.D. Ross

• Virtue
• Pleasure
• Pleasure in proportion to virtue
• Knowledge

This list of intrinsic goods comprises the value-based prima facie duties.
Duties of Special Obligation

Consequentialism Duties of Prima Facie

- Justice
- Beneficence
- Self-improvement
- Nonmaleficence

Duty Based - Deontological Duties of Prima Facie

- Fidelity
- Reparation
- Gratitude
What makes Prima Facie Different?

No super principle (eg. categorical imperative)
Not consequentialism either (p. 67-69)

Additional Prima Facie Duties (Robert Audi)

- **Veracity**
- **Enhancement and preservation of freedom**
- **Respectfulness**
Judgments about our Duties

• They are not self evident

• They are not logical conclusions from self-evident premises.

• We never know what act will in the long run be to our advantage.

• We build from the existing body of moral convictions of the best people as a cumulative product of the moral reflection of many generations.