Metaethics is the study of the nature and justification of moral judgments, as distinct from ethics, which aims to articulate principles, criteria, or alternative approaches to understanding and achieving goodness and right action.

If you’d like to see some examples, take a look at the PEA Soup blog, which includes a lot of metaethics. A recent thread discusses the grounds for claiming that it’s morally wrong to wish someone dead (for instance, someone who contracts COVID after dismissing it as not worth the worry).

Metaethics is like philosophy of religion or philosophy of science: it takes the tools of philosophy and applies them to a specific topic. So we study the metaphysics, epistemology, semantics, psychology, etc. of ethics.

Prerequisites: PHIL 41048 — one course from PHIL 31001–31020
PHIL 51048 — graduate standing
Juniors & Seniors who need upper-division hours, please contact instructor

Please contact mbyron@kent.edu for more information.