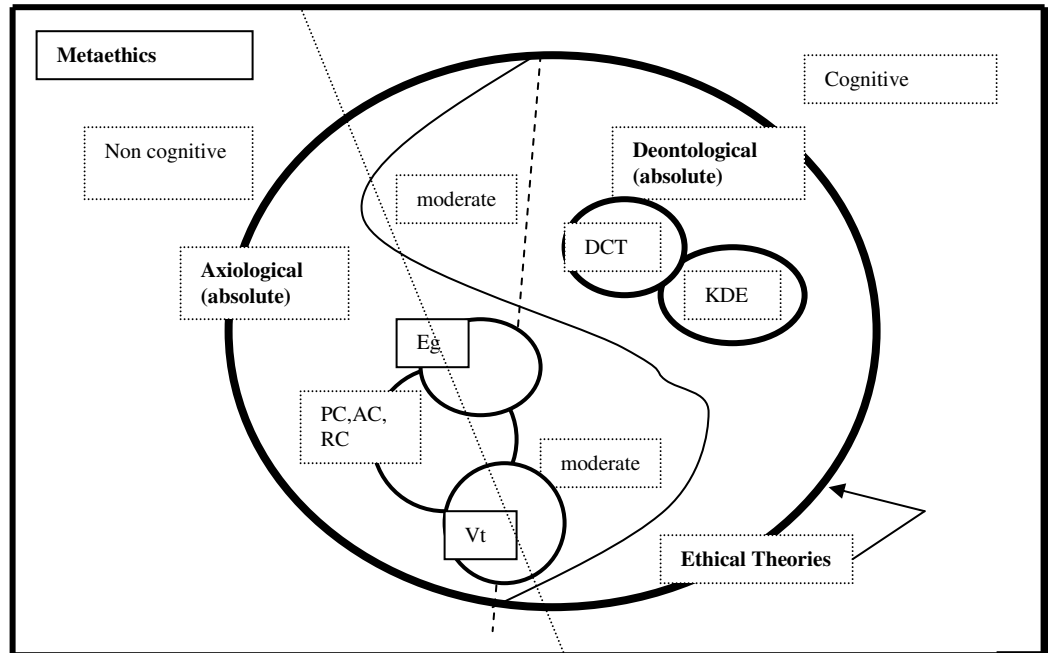


Notes for November 10, 2006



- Legend:**
- Eg:** Ethical Egoism (J Bentham)
  - PC, AC, RC:** Practice, Act, Rule Consequentialism (SJ Odell, JS Mill)
  - DCT:** Divine Command Theory
  - KDE:** Kantian Duty Ethics
  - Vt :** Virtue Ethics (Aristotle)

The above depicts how the various ethical concepts introduced in Odell’s handout interrelate. The large rectangle is the discipline of metaethics, which, similar to metaphysics (the study of kinds of being or ultimate reality), is the study of the nature and kinds of ethical theories, and what constitutes them, and the meaning of ethical terms. I have divided metaethics, following Odell’s upcoming handout, into two categories: non-cognitive (the view that all ethics is based subjective emotional expression) versus cognitive (i.e, the view that ethics has some objective, rational or logical content.)

Within the circle of the domain of ethical theories proper, we have Axiological Theories (ethical theories based on *value* concepts) and Deontological Theories (based on character, *duty*.) The reason why it’s ‘yin/yang’ shaped is to illustrate that the moderate positions overlap, to an extent. (The moderate Axiologist will admit that ethics contains some Deontological aspects and vice versa).