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"If They Move: Kill 'Em": What Can We Learn From the Bad Guys of the Movies?

I will look at some characters and scenes from four movies (*The Wild Bunch*, *The Little Foxes*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, and *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*) to suggest that we can learn some worthwhile things about ethics and about teaching ethics from the morally challenged characters these (and other films) depict.

These films presents individuals who are not simply 'human, all to human,' in being flawed, imperfect. Rather, people such as Pike Bishop, Regina Hubbard, J.J. Hunsecker and Tuco are *fundamentally* bad: serial liars, crooks, killers. Nonetheless, they occasionally act in ways which are – or which appear – morally correct, and in some instances even morally admirable. So, with the help of some clips, I'll explore what we might learn when the bad do good. The leitmotif of my consideration will be that it is the complexity and ambiguity of their characters, of the contexts in which they act, and of the situations they confront which provides for rich and nuanced ethical deliberation and grounds for self-reflection.