

## FINAL STUDY SHEET—ETHICS PHIL 2103, FALL 2023

### Kant, continued

1. What is a “maxim”? What are two relevant parts to a “maxim”?
2. According to Kant, what is the name of the supreme principle of morality? What does it say? (You should be able to recognize and distinguish the 1st and 2nd formulations)
3. What does Kant mean by the terms “ends” and “means”?
4. Why is the “killer at the door” example (or the “Nazis at the door” example we discussed in class) considered a problem for Kant’s theory?

### Physician-Assisted Suicide (Velleman)

5. What does it mean to say that persons have interest-independent value?
6. What makes a person’s discretionary ends (i.e. interests) valuable, according to Velleman?
7. According to Velleman’s Kantian argument, where is the problem with the following argument presented in the Philosopher’s Brief?
  - The value A places in life is what makes it valuable.
  - A does not place value on his own life
  - Therefore, A’s life is of no value.
8. What is the basis of the duty not to commit suicide, on the view discussed in class?

### Virtue Ethics

9. What does it mean for a natural being (such as a plant, animal, or person) to flourish, according to Aristotle?
10. What two major activities are natural to human beings (and so necessary for their flourishing), according to Aristotle?
11. What are virtues, according to Aristotle?
12. How can we determine whether some action is right according to virtue ethics?

### Abortion (Hursthouse)

13. According to Hursthouse, what is wrong with discussing the ethics of abortion as mainly a question about whether women should have a right to choose abortion?
14. What are two vices Hursthouse discusses that might be associated with a person who has an abortion merely so that she can “have a good time”?

### Feminism (Frye)

15. How does the metaphor of a bird cage help us to understand the difference between microscopic and macroscopic views of an action, practice, institution, etc?
16. What are two features of an oppressive action, practice, institution, etc, discussed in class?

### Disability (Wendell)

17. Know the difference between disability and impairment.
18. According to the “medical model” of disability, what is the relationship between impairment and disability?

19. According to Wendell, is disability caused by impairment? Why or why not?
20. What does it mean to say that disability is socially constructed?

Voluntarism: Subjectivism and Relativism

21. What is ethical relativism?
22. What is one weakness of ethical relativism?

Divine Command Theory

23. What is the Divine Command Theory?
24. What is one advantage of Divine Command Theory?

Evangelium Vitae (Pope John Paul II)

25. Why is killing wrong, according to the Pope?
26. What is the positive aspect of the commandment “Do not kill,” according to the Pope?
27. Under what circumstances, according to the Pope, is the death penalty justifiable?
28. Why does Russ Shafer-Landau think that extrinsic rewards (like the prospect of heaven and hell) cannot make people act more morally? [to be discussed in class on 12/18].