

FINAL STUDY SHEET—ETHICS PHIL 2103, FALL 2024

Treatment of Animals

1. What makes persons of different races and sexes morally equal, according to Singer?
2. What does Singer (like other utilitarians) mean by “interests”?
3. What does Singer mean by “speciesism”? Be able to explain an example (one of those used in class or given in the reading) used to show that we are speciesist.

Kant

1. What is the major difference between consequentialist ethical theories and deontological ethical theories? Which theory that we studied is consequentialist, and which is deontological?
2. What is a maxim? What are two parts to a maxim discussed in class?
3. 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)
4. What does Kant mean by the terms “ends” and “means”?
5. What are three kinds of actions that seem to always treat persons as mere means?

Physician-Assisted Suicide (Velleman)

6. What does it mean to say that persons have interest-independent value?
7. What makes a person’s interest-relative values valuable, according to Velleman?
8. According to Velleman’s Kantian argument, where is the problem with the following argument presented in the Philosopher’s Brief?
 1. The value A places in life is what makes it valuable.
 2. A does not place value on his own life
 3. Therefore, A’s life is of no value.

Virtue Ethics

9. What two major activities are natural to human beings (and so necessary for their flourishing), according to Aristotle?
10. How can we identify a virtue? Be able to explain this using an example (such as honesty).
11. What reasons does Aristotle mean when he says that acting virtuously requires acting for the right reasons?
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 does it mean to have moral status, according to Dr. M?
15. Explain 2-3 reasons from our discussion or from Hursthouse for thinking that for most people, having children is “intrinsically worthwhile.”

Feminism/Oppression (Frye)

16. What is a double bind? What is an example discussed in class of a double bind confronting women today?
17. 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?
18. What are two features of an oppressive action, practice, institution, etc, discussed in class?
19. Using the definition of oppression given in class, determine whether several examples (similar to the ones used in class) demonstrate oppression, and if so, who is oppressed.

Disability (Wendell)

20. Know the difference between disability and impairment.
21. According to the “medical model” of disability, what is the relationship between impairment and disability?
22. What is the relationship between sex and gender? Be able to explain.
23. According to Wendell, is disability caused by impairment? Why or why not?
24. What does it mean to say that disability is socially constructed?

Ethical Non-Realism

25. What is subjectivism?
26. Why is moral debate difficult for subjectivism to explain?
27. What is ethical relativism?
28. Does ethical relativism really promote tolerance? Why or why not?