

MIDTERM STUDY SHEET

Introduction

1. What, according to Dr. MacDougall, is the main difference between professional ethics and philosophical ethics?
2. What, according to Dr. M, is one of the shortcomings of professional ethics? Explain.
3. What is a normative claim? What is an empirical claim? Be able to define and recognize examples of each.

Ethical Non-Realism

4. What is ethical non-realism?
5. What does it mean to say that a claim is “objective”?
6. What is subjectivism (i.e., individual relativism)?
7. What is one criticism of subjectivism?

Consequentialist ethics/Mill's Utilitarianism

8. What is the name of the supreme principle of morality, according to Mill? What does it say?
9. What does Mill mean by “happiness”?
10. What does it mean to say that happiness is “aggregative”?
11. What case did we use in class to explain the justice objection? Describe the justice objection, and explain how the case seems to raise the justice objection.

Deontological ethics/Kant

12. What is the major difference between “consequentialist” ethical theories and “deontological” ethical theories? Which theory that we studied is consequentialist, and which is deontological?
13. 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)
14. What does Kant mean by the terms “ends” and “means”?
15. What 3 kinds of actions does the formula of humanity most clearly prohibit?

Medical Learning Curves and Annotated Bibliography

16. What are three important characteristics of a good thesis that we discussed in class?
17. Why, according to LeMorvan and Stock, does the reality of medical practice require violating the Kantian principle that we should never treat persons as a mere means?
18. What, according to Dr. M, is the main difference between “conclusions” and “results” in an empirical article?
19. What are two characteristics of “conclusions” that help distinguish them from “results”?

Researching Principles of Biomedical Ethics (Beauchamp and Childress)

20. Know 4 principles and what they mean.
21. What does it mean to say that the 4 principles are “prima facie” binding?

22. What is an ethical dilemma?

Researching Ethics Cases

no questions

Autonomy, decision making capacity

23. What are the two major components of an autonomous decision?

24. Know the four criteria for decision making capacity, and how they apply to cases similar to the ones we discussed in class.

Surrogate decision making

25. What is the difference between a living will and a durable power of attorney?

26. What are the three standards discussed in class for surrogate decision making? When is each one appropriate?

27. Who should be the surrogate decision maker in most cases for patients? What ethical principle determines the order in which the patient's family and friends are usually selected for this task?

CASE ANALYSIS

Be prepared to utilize concepts from our discussion of surrogate decision making to write brief analyses of short cases. In each case, you will be asked two questions:

- a. Who should be the surrogate decision maker and why?
- b. What standard should the surrogate use to make the decision and why?

You will not need to say what the decision should be.