

Questions for November 8

These questions cover an interview with Peter Singer on the topic of Life and Death Decision-Making and a reading of your choice (see question 4). The answers do not have to be turned in. The listening questions only go up to 9:59, so you can stop listening at that point if you want. You will probably have to listen more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

In this interview Peter Singer discusses his views on euthanasia. What he has to say here is rather controversial (especially in the part you don't have to listen to), but I think it will allow us to talk about some of the key issues. After we talk about these, we'll talk about some real-life cases.

*Questions:*

1. Between 0:26 and 2:51 and Peter Singer thinks that we should let people make their own decisions so long as certain conditions hold. What conditions does he have in mind? Why does he think we should let people make their own decisions in these circumstances – is it because he thinks that if these conditions hold people will always make morally justified decisions or is it for some other reason? What do you think about what he says and why?
2. Between 5:40 and 6:55 Singer talks about the doctor's role. What does he think the doctor's role is? Do you agree and why?
3. Between 8:53 and 9:59, Singer talks about the slippery slope criticism of his position? What is the slippery slope criticism? How does Singer respond? Do you think his response is adequate?
4. I want you to find a real-life case in which a patient requested assisted suicide and decide what you think about the moral acceptability of the assisted suicide in this case and why. It should be really easy to find such cases by googling, but in case you're having trouble them, I have some optional readings for today that provide cases.