

Reading Questions for September 6

These questions cover some readings by Julian Baggini and Peter S. Fosl. They are titled “Consequentialism”, “Deontological Ethics” and “Virtue Ethics.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

Today we’re going to take a quick look at three theories in normative ethics. Normative ethics tries to speak in general about which things are morally right and which are morally wrong. The three theories we will examine are called “consequentialism”, “deontology”, and “virtue ethics.” You only have to read one of these pieces for today – your classmates will teach you about the other two during class. If your last name is from Anderson to Hayes you should read “consequentialism.” If your last name is from Henry to Norris you should read “deontological ethics.” If your last name is from Sartor to Woods-Gant you should read “virtue ethics.”

*Question:*

1. What are the key things to know about your theory? What (if anything) do you think people who endorse your theory would say about the questions we’ve discussed about friends and family? Is your theory plausible?