

Reading Questions for March 3

These questions cover part of a chapter by Fred Feldman called “Why Killing is Wrong” from a book called *Confrontations with the Reaper*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This week, we’re looking at the question of when killing is wrong. We’re taking a somewhat indirect approach to this question, focusing on why killing is wrong, with the idea being that once we figure out why it’s wrong, we’ll be able to know when it’s wrong. To help us answer this question, we’re working through a couple of book chapters by Feldman.

*Questions:*

1. In the section titled “Justicism” (182-5), Feldman introduces justicism. What is this view? What considerations does he offer in its defense? Is it plausible? Why?
2. In the final section (185-90), Feldman introduces and defends justicized act utilitarianism. What is this view? What considerations does he offer in its favor? Is it plausible? Why?