

Reflection Paper 1

Instructions: this assignment should be **printed out** and turned in **in class** on **March 6**. If possible, you should staple all of your previous reflections to it. This paper should be a page or two and will be graded pass/fail and worth 2 percent of your grade. If you do excellent work on it, I will give you some extra points. If you can't make it to class that day, leave your paper in my box in the philosophy department lounge (117 Malloy). If you have any questions about how to complete the assignment, please let me know.

Your paper should address the following three questions:

- (1) How are you doing on the various tasks (including papers and other things, such as speaking in class)? How can your work be improved on those you're struggling with?
- (2) Have you been managing to formulate a consistent and systematic perspective regarding the questions we've been discussing and moral theory in general? How can you work to develop your perspective over the rest of the semester?
- (3) Do your previous answers to the various reflection questions I've asked still seem accurate to you, or would you alter them in some way?

I've copied the various reflection questions I asked, just in case that will be helpful for you.

1. We've now looked at a couple of philosophers who talk about the morality of euthanasia. How is their method of approaching the issue different or similar to the way you yourself approach the issue?

Are there certain concepts or questions that we've talked about that you expect to be important throughout the course?

Are there certain concepts we've talked about that you'd like to learn more about?

2. Which things in class are you doing well on so far (mini-papers, reading questions, taking notes in class, talking in class, etc.) and which are you struggling with? With the ones that you're struggling, why are you struggling? Is there anything I can do to help?
3. We've now looked at the three most popular views in normative ethics: consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics. Which of the three do you find attractive. How is that reflected in your views on euthanasia and abortion.
4. We've now looked at some people who argue by appeal to examples and other who argue by appeal to general theories (such as consequentialism/deontology/virtue ethics). How do you think it would make sense to figure out what's morally right: should we trust our views about examples more, or our views about general theories? Or some combination? Or something else entirely?
5. We've now had mini-papers that practice a variety of skills: explaining an author's view, responding to an objection, reconstructing an argument, and stating and defending your own views. Which skills do you find hardest? What would be some good ways to improve your abilities with regards to them?
6. We've been looking at a number of fairly bright people who disagree about various moral questions. Does this disagreement cause you to question your confidence in your own judgments? Why or why not?