

Reading Questions for February 4

These questions cover two readings: the first is by Julian Baggini and Peter S. Fosl and is called “Legal/Moral.” The second is by H Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. and is called “Rights to Health Care, Social Justice, and Fairness in Health Care Allocations: Frustrations in the Face of Finitude.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers. We are going to continue to read the Engelhardt on Friday, so you only need to read up to the end of the questions for today.

*Background:*

Over the next four days, in addition to exploring whether we have a right to health care, we are also going to explore the relationship between law and morality and between religion and morality. Today we are going to look at the relationship between law and morality.

Next, we’ll read a piece by H. Tristram Engelhardt Jr., who argues that there is no right to health care.

*Questions:*

1. The “Law/Moral” reading offers several options on the relationship between law and morality. How do you understand the relationship and why?
2. In the first section of the Engelhardt article, Engelhardt offers an argument for the conclusion that a basic human secular right to health care does not exist. Reconstruct that argument in premise-conclusion form. Is it plausible? Why or why not?