

Reading Questions for February 6

These questions cover a reading by H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. 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.

*Background:*

We are continuing the reading by H. Tristram Engelhardt Jr., who is arguing that there is no right to health care. I should note that this is probably the hardest thing we’ve read so far, so you shouldn’t be worried if you find it challenging to understand.

*Questions:*

1. Starting on page 703, Engelhardt introduces the terms “natural lottery” and “social lottery.” What does he mean by these terms? Does Engelhardt think we have a moral responsibility to help those who are hurt by the natural lottery? Why or why not? What about the social lottery? What do you think about what he says here and why?
2. In the section titled “Conflicting Models of Justice: From Content to Procedure” Engelhardt offers two different models of justice, one from John Rawls and the other from Robert Nozick. What are the key differences between them? What do they say about health care? Which do you find more plausible and why?