

Thinking Straight Ethical Reasoning Workshop 1-2 , April 4, 2008

I. A. In small groups,

- (1) Discuss how you approached the reading? What seemed to work and what did not.)

- (2) Discuss the “ main point “of Chapter I and how it is supported.

B. Plenary How does Rachels support his main point in Chapter 1?

BREAK for Lunch: Return by 1 pm

II . Brief Introduction to our purpose in seeing the video “ 3:10 to Yuma”

III Watch the Film: As you watch the film. Consider the ethical issues that it raises.

Pay special attention to the choices that Dan Evan’s (the beleaguered rancher) makes as well as any morally significant or interesting choices that other characters make.

IV (In small group)

- (1) Pick out one or two of the morally significant choices portrayed in the film.
- (2) Discuss whether the choice was morally acceptable or not,
- (3) Generate an argument (or arguments) leading to the conclusion that the choice was morally acceptable or not in a manner similar to what R&R do for the examples in the first chapter of their text—though your arguments might be of a different than any of those.
- (4) Give your argument a general label as R&R do, e.g. “The Benefits Argument,” “The Argument that we should Not Use People as Means,” etc. though here again you might have a different label than any that they use.



Ethics Assignment for Tuesday, April 8: **Read** Rachels Chapter 2 & 3. Focus particularly on the “Cultural Differences Argument,” on Rachels’ criticisms of cultural relativism, and on what can be learned from cultural relativism as well as his characterization of subjectivism and the role of reason in ethic. **Submit:** a brief description of the moral choice you discussed in **IV** (or some other from the movie) as well as the an argument (or arguments) leading to the conclusion that the choice was morally acceptable or not.



Additional Assignment for Tuesday, April 8. Try to log on to the program *Forum* via the website and carry out the following. (If you run into trouble tell David on Tuesday.)

- (1) Post a brief introduction to youself. Use your full name in the Title, for example, my entry is called *Introducing David Paulsen*.
- (2) There is an entry called *Introducing 3:10 to Yuma*. Comment on it by posting your assessment of the movie as film (not merely as a vehicle for an ethics exercise). This could be as brief as the statement. I liked it. or a more elaborate comment if you prefer.

The purpose of this task is to see whether you are able to use the forum.