

Ethics Take-Home Exam

Due by Friday, June 6, 2006, 1 pm

Write a short, essay style response to the Exam Topic and (**optionally**) to the Extra Credit Topic. (minimum: at least 2-3 pages double spaced on each). Your response should show familiarity with the topics in the texts, workshops, and topics we have covered. The take-home exam should be done individually, not in groups

Exam Topic

Assuming that you know the person involved, discuss the case described below in italics. Identify as many morally relevant aspects of it as you can and indicate clearly the moral theory or theories that would consider these features of the case morally relevant. Some features might be important for more than one ethical theory. If you like, you might treat this task as a kind of convergent argument. With this in mind, indicate what choice would be morally best (on balance) If your decision would depend on some unmentioned “facts” about the case, make plausible assumptions and clearly indicate them. If you have any questions, about this exam item, be sure to ask David in person or by e-mail.

A student is entering the last two years of college and is beginning to think about a possible career. The student has focused on two areas: a biology (pre-med) program and classics (Latin and Greek language and cultural studies). The student has done very well in both areas. The student can imagine being a doctor working in public health, maybe even with the Doctors without Borders international health organization. The student seems to have all the makings of an excellent doctor. But Classics as the student's real love. There is something about the ancient Mediterranean world which the student finds fascinating. What career choice should the student make?

Extra Credit Topic (OPTIONAL,)

On the basis of what you have read in Rachels, the handouts and outside reading as well as discussions in workshop indicate your current view about moral reasoning and the role, if any, that moral theories might play in this reasoning. If you have another (alternative) ethical theory present it. Be sure to provide reasons why you came to the conclusions you did about moral reasoning.