

# Tuesday April 12, 2011 Schedule for the Day

Am: Critical Reasoning

- Comment's on Friday's Assignment
- Discussion of Today's Assignment
- Workshop on new material: Moving to Real World Discourse

Pm: Ethical Reasoning

- Review potential Ethical Theories as Conceptual Theories
- Discussion of the relationship of religion and morality
- Ethical Egoism

## Comments on Critical Reasoning Assignment for Friday, April 1

### Generally Good Progress

We're moving to more complicated passages –so make sure you have good down the basics for simple reconstruction, use of the principle of charitable interpretation, and the identification of common successful argument patterns and their extensions.

## Discussion of Chapter 3 Exercise 3.1 A6, 8, 10

- A6. (1) *If the Hacker laptop has only 3 Gigs of RAM,*  
then [ **It can't run VideoMaster software** ].  
(2) *If it can't run VideoMaster software, then I shouldn't buy it.*  
(3) [ **the Hacker laptop has only 3 Gigs of RAM** ].  
∴ *I shouldn't buy it*

(1) If A, then [B].

(2) If B, then C.

(3) [A].

∴ C.

Chain Argument

*Version Making the “not” component explicit*

- A6. (1) *If the Hacker laptop has only 3 Gigs of RAM,*  
then [ **it is not the case that it can run VideoMaster software** ].  
(2) *If **it is not the case that** it can run VideoMaster software,*  
then *I shouldn't buy it.*  
(3) [ **the Hacker laptop has only 3 Gigs of RAM** ].  
∴ *I shouldn't buy it*

(1) If A, then [not B].

(2) If *not* B, then C.

(3) [A].

∴ C.

Chain Argument

A8. (1) *Any addition to my TV entertainment system is an extravagance.*

(2) [**A new 60-inch high-definition plasma TV**] is  
[**an addition to my TV entertainment system**].

*∴ A new 60-inch high-definition plasma TV is an extravagance.*

(1) All  $P_1$ 's are  $P_2$ 's.

(2) [m] is a [ $P_1$ ].

∴ m is a  $P_2$ .

**Predicate Instantiation**

## A more complicated Pattern

10. (1) *Either I'll spend my tax refund on a new 60-inch high-definition plasma TV, or I'll repair my car (but not both).*  
(2) *If I do not repair my car, then I risk a serious accident.*  
(3) *[ I will not risk a serious accident\* ]*.  
∴ *I won't spend my tax refund on a new 60-inch high-definition plasma*

**\* = it is not the case I will risk a serious accident**

- (1) Either A or B, and  
not (A and B).  
(2) If not B, then C.  
(3) [Not C].  
∴ Not A.**

## Discussion of Chapter 3 Exercise 3.1 B 4,6,8,10,12,14,16

- B 4. Harold should be sensitive to other people **Because** any teacher should be sensitive to other people.

Premise Indicator Word

*(1) All teachers should be sensitive to other people.*

(2) Harold is a teacher. (IMPLICIT)

*∴ Harold should be sensitive to other people.*

*(1) All  $P_1$ s are  $P_2$ s.*

(2) m is a  $P_1$ . (IMPLICIT)

*∴ m is a  $P_2$ .*

Predicate Instantiation

B6. If being affectionate were the only important virtue, then Maurice would be a saint. **So** being affectionate is obviously not the only important virtue.

Conclusion Indicator Word

*(1) If being affectionate were the only important virtue, then Maurice would be a saint.*

*(2) Maurice is not a saint. (IMPLICIT)*

*∴ Being affectionate is not the only important virtue.*

*(1) If A, then B.*

*(2) Not B. (IMPLICIT)*

*∴ Not A.*

Modus Tollens

B8. Many baby boomers are reaching retirement age. But if that is so, then many new, younger workers will be hired. **It follows that,** before long, businesses will become more energetic.

**Conclusion Indicator Words**

*(1) Many baby boomers are reaching retirement age.*

*(2) If many baby boomers are reaching retirement age,  
then many new, younger workers will be hired.*

*(3) If many new, younger workers will be hired, then  
before long, businesses will become more energetic. (IMPLICIT)*

*∴ Before long, businesses will become more energetic.*

*(1) A.*

*(2) If A, then B.*

*(3) If B, then C.*

*∴ C.*

*Chain Argument*



10. The number of unmarried adults in the United States is continuing to increase. If there is an increase in people unsupported by close personal bonds, there will be an increase in alcoholism and suicide. **So** there will be an increase in alcoholism and suicide.

Conclusion Indicator Word

*(1) The number of unmarried adults in the United States is continuing to increase.*

*(2) If the number of unmarried adults in the United States is continuing to increase, then there is an increase in people unsupported by close, personal bonds. (IMPLICIT)*

*(3) If there is an increase in people unsupported by close, personal bonds, then there will be an increase in alcoholism and suicide.*

*∴ There will be an increase in alcoholism and suicide.*

*(1) A.*

*(2) If A, then B.  
(IMPLICIT)*

*(3) If B, then C.*

*∴ C.*

Chain Argument

B12. The higher the interest rates, the better the bank. The interest rates at CASH National Bank are the highest in town.

*(1) The higher the interest rates, the better the bank.*  
*(2) The interest rates at CASH National Bank are the highest in town.*  
*∴ The CASH National Bank is the best bank in town. (IMPLICIT)*

*(1) All Banks with higher interest rates are better banks.*  
*(2) The interest rates at CASH National Bank are the highest in town.*  
*∴ The CASH National Bank is the best bank in town. (IMPLICIT)*

*(1) All  $P_1$ 's are  $P_2$ 's*  
*(2) c is a  $P_1$ \_\_\_\_\_*

*∴ c is a  $P_2$*

**Predicate Instantiation**

B14. Either I should spend my tax refund on paying off my debts or I should buy books for this term. But if I don't buy books, I'll risk failing my courses. **So** I shouldn't spend the refund on paying off my debts.

Conclusion Indicator Word

*(1) Either I should spend my tax refund on paying off my debts or I should buy books for this term [but not both].*

*(2) If I don't buy books, then I risk failing my courses.*

*(3) I shouldn't risk failing my courses. (IMPLICIT)*

*∴ I shouldn't spend the refund on paying off my debts.*

*(1) Either A or B but not both*

*B?*

*∴ not A*

*(2) If not B, then C*

*(3) not C*

*∴ B*

*(=not not B)*

B16. Every human action is determined by laws of nature. But for a person to deserve praise or blame, it is necessary for the person to have been able to act differently than he or she in fact did act. **So** no person deserves praise or blame

Conclusion Indicator Word

*(1) Every human action is determined by laws of nature.*

*(2) If any person deserves praise or blame, then he or she can act differently than she in fact did.* (Or, equivalently: *If he or she cannot act differently than she did, then no person deserves praise or blame.*)

*(3) If every human action is determined by laws of nature, then a person cannot act differently than he or she in fact did.* (IMPLICIT)

*∴ No person deserves praise or blame.*

*(1) A*

*(2) If B, then C.*

*(3) If A, not C*

*∴ not B\**

*(1) A*

*(2) If not C, then not B.*

*(3) If A, not C*

*∴ not B*

\*not any = No

## Discussion of Chapter 3 Exercise 3.1 C 2, 4

C2. I don't care what you say: If it's wrong to discriminate against a woman on the basis of her gender, then it is equally wrong to discriminate against a man on the basis of his.  
Permitting combat roles in the military for men only is unjust.

### *Reconstructions*

a. (1) *If gender discrimination is wrong, then combat roles for men only are unjust.*

(2) Combat roles for men only are unjust.

∴ *Gender discrimination is wrong.*

**a. has the wrong conclusion and is invalid.**

b. (1) *If it is wrong to discriminate against a woman on the basis of her gender, then it is equally wrong to discriminate against a man on the basis of his.*

(2) Combat roles for men only discriminate against a man on the basis of his gender.

∴ *Combat roles for men only are unjust.*

**b is invalid as it stands; it needs the assertion that gender discrimination against women is wrong.**

c. (1) *If gender discrimination against women is wrong, then it is unjust to discriminate against a man on the basis of his gender.*

(2) Gender discrimination against women is wrong.

∴ *Combat roles for men only are unjust.*

**c. contains the assertion that b. needs but it also needs to include a premise asserting that combat roles only for men discriminates against men on the basis of gender.**

**Overall : None of the reconstructions are adequate, but a combination of b and c would be.**

- a. (1) *An early-stage fetus doesn't have the capacity for sentience and cognition that would qualify it as a human person*
  - (2) *If an early-stage fetus doesn't have the capacity for sentience and cognition that would qualify it as a human person, then abortion at an early stage of pregnancy can sometimes be justified.*
- 

*∴ Abortion at an early stage of pregnancy can sometimes be justified.*

**Reconstruction a takes the “easy way out” of using if-then.**

- b. (1) *Abortion at an early stage of pregnancy can sometimes be justified*
  - (2) *If abortion at an early stage of pregnancy can sometimes be justified, then an early-stage fetus doesn't have the capacity for sentience and cognition that would qualify it as a human person.*
- 

*∴ An early-stage fetus doesn't have the capacity for sentience and cognition that would qualify it as a human person*

**Reconstruction b mistakes the conclusion for a premise and a premise for the conclusion.**

- c. (1) *An early-stage fetus lacks the capacity for sentience and cognition that would qualify it as a human person.*
- (2) *Ending the life of something that doesn't qualify as a human person can sometimes be justified.*
- (3) *If an early-stage fetus lacks the capacity for sentience and cognition that would qualify it as a human person and ending the life of something that doesn't qualify it as a human person can sometimes be justified, then abortion at an early stage of pregnancy can sometimes be justified.*

*∴ Abortion at an early stage of pregnancy can often be justified.*

**Reconstruction c states the conclusion too boldly (“often” rather than “sometimes”), but is otherwise adequate.**

*Well, I insist—and I here follow von Hildebrand—that we parents, we married people, in no way believe sex is dirty, but we believe it is private and intimate. Therefore, it cannot endure being publicized the way mathematics or even the way health is publicized. It is quite tactful for you to go to a party and talk about your tonsils. It is not tactful—not acceptable—for you to go to a party and talk about how your wife makes love to you, not because you think it is dirty, my friends, but because you think it is intimate.*

1. Sex is private and intimate.

2. **What ever is private and intimate should not be publicized.** (IMPLICIT)  
**i.e. All things private and intimate should not be publicized.**

∴ Sex shouldn't be publicized

## From **Raping our Children: The Sex Education Scandal**

*Well, I insist—and I here follow von Hildebrand—that we parents, we married people, in no way believe sex is dirty, but we believe it is private and intimate. Therefore, it cannot endure being publicized the way mathematics or even the way health is publicized. It is quite tactful for you to go to a party and talk about your tonsils. It is not tactful—not acceptable—for you to go to a party and talk about how your wife makes love to you, not because you think it is dirty, my friends, but because you think it is intimate.*

1. Sex is private and intimate.

2. All things private and intimate shouldn't be publicized. (IMPLICIT)

∴ Sex shouldn't be publicized

**Subordinate Conclusion**

**3. If sex education is permitted, then sex will be publicized (IMPLICIT)**

**∴ Sex education should not be permitted (IMPLICIT)**



*American culture is undergoing a change that will significantly affect the U.S. economy. Anticipated energy shortages, a concern for the environment, and a general disgust with the excesses that led to the mortgage crisis have led to a cultural mindset that idealizes living well on a small scale. Lavish personal spending on clothing and cars is in many quarters ridiculed rather than admired.*

**(1) A.**

*The McMansion that was so recently and widely coveted is being passed over for the well-designed house of smaller scale. If (as is likely) this downsizing continues, then there are two possibilities for the U.S. economy. First, there might be stabilization at a lower level of activity and growth than in recent decades that were characterized by plentiful energy and near-boundless demand for personal goods.*

**(2) If A, then B or C**

*Either that or U.S. economic expansion will be driven not by the retail and housing sectors but by innovation in areas such as energy conservation and technology, as well as in participation in the economies of developing nations such as China and India. But*

**(3) D**

**(4) If D, then not B**

*considering the availability of investment capital and the likelihood of investment opportunities in these other areas, we can rule out the alternative of low-growth stabilization of the U.S. economy. We are*

**∴ C**

*led, therefore, to the second alternative*

- (1) A.
- (2) If A, then B or C.
- (3) D.
- (4) If D, then not B.
- ∴ C.

### Argument Sketch of the Passage about American Culture

- (1) *Americans are downsizing.*
- (2) *If downsizing, then either lower economic activity or expansion in areas other than retail and housing.*
- (3) *Available capital and opportunities in other areas.*
- (4) *If 3, then not low growth.*
- ∴ *Expansion in areas other than retail and housing*

*Books and magazines that use a vocabulary that deludes women into thinking themselves rebels and outlaws, on the cusp of some new freedom, misperceive our basic situation. A defect in the early thinking of the women's movement was a tendency to liberate women not for life but for life in the counterculture; when that life was over, many women found themselves in limbo. . . . If we wish to be firm-voiced and progressive about meeting our primary needs, we should not point our heads in the direction of the wrong revolution. Vague definitions such as sister, rebel and outlaw may be handy for magazines in search of a vast circulation, but are of no use to thinking adults. Sexual liberation without economic security grants women merely the right to stay marginal. Women must cease being conned into substituting fantasy sexual revolutions for political pressure or real reforms that would give us true equality*

- (1) Feminist literature can either prepare women for life in the counterculture or for meeting primary economic needs. (IMPLICIT)*
  - (2) If feminist literature prepares women for life in the counterculture, then when that life is over they are left in limbo.*
  - (3) Women should not be left in limbo when life in the counterculture is over. (IMPLICIT)*
- ∴ Feminist literature should prepare women for meeting primary economic needs.*

### **Argument in Paragraph 1**

*(1) If anti-gun laws worked, then New York and Washington would have the lowest crime rates.*

*(2) New York and Washington do not have the lowest crime rates.*

*∴ Anti-gun laws don't work. (IMPLICIT)*

### **Argument in paragraph 3**

*(1) If anti-gun laws are passed, then criminals will have guns but law-abiders will not.*

*(2) If criminals will have guns but law-abiders will not, then it will be easier for criminals to prey on law abiders.*

*(3) It should not be easier for criminals to prey on law abiders. (IMPLICIT)*

*∴ Anti-gun laws should not be passed. (IMPLICIT)*

Dr. Bernard E. Rollin  
*'Animal Rights as a Mainstream Phenomenon'*

**April 12, 2011 6:00pm**  
The Evergreen State College  
Seminar 2 C1105

Bernard E. Rollin is University Distinguished Professor and Bioethicist at Colorado State University. Dr. Rollin was a pioneer in reforming experimental lab animal use and has consulted for U.S. Congress, National Institute of Health and the World Health Organization.

He has lectured extensively on animal ethics, genetic engineering, animal pain, animal research, animal agriculture, veterinary ethics to medical researchers, psychologists, philosophers, veterinarians, animal advocates, farmers and students in over 60 countries.

He is the author of over 500 papers and seventeen books, of which the best known is *Animal Rights and Human Morality*.





That's All Folks