

Assignment 1
PHIL 330
Douglas Hon

- a) The Aristotelian theory of ethics states that our actions should be determined by living our life in accordance to the virtues, and by this we can achieve eudaimonia, or what is understood as reason. To achieve eudaimonia, we must choose to use reason to achieve our goals. There are also two types of virtues: intellectual and moral. Intellectual virtues are like wisdom and reason, while moral virtue is like a disposition to choose the mean. For many things, there are usually two extremes. Aristotle describes moral virtue as being able to use reason to choose an appropriate response between these two extremes.
- b) The Utilitarian theory of ethics states that our actions should be determined by how much good they would produce in the world. All our actions produce positive and negative effects. The utilitarian analyzes all possible actions in response to a scenario and will choose the one that produces the most good. This can prove to be difficult because there can be many factors to consider.
- c) The Kantian theory of ethics uses the Categorical Imperative to determine whether a certain action is moral. The categorical imperative states that it is immoral to use a person as a mere means. A Kantian would analyze an action to determine whether an action would involve using a person as a scheme of action that they do not consent to. If this is true then the action can be considered immoral. There is also a general test to help determine whether an action would be considered moral when using the categorical imperative. It involves capturing your intentions in the form of a maxim and then asking whether you can see it functioning as a universal law, and if you would enjoy it as a universal law. If the answer to those two questions is yes, then the action can be considered moral.