

Midterm Exam #2

Philosophy 4

Write an essay of no less than 900 and no more than 1200 words, double-spaced, an ordinary-sized font, and no larger than 1.25 inch left- and right-margins. Your essay should be original, well-structured, and demonstrate familiarity with Christine Korsgaard's article *Two Arguments Against Lying*. You should include and explain two quotations from Mill, Sidgwick, or Korsgaard. In your essay you should do *each* the following:

1. Explain what a vague concept is, what a slippery slope argument is, and how the two are related. Give an example of a slippery slope argument. Is your argument convincing or not? State why.
2. Sidgwick argues that paternalistic lies are always permissible, as long as they are intended to maximize aggregate happiness. Why is this a *prima facie* consequence of Utilitarianism? How would Sidgwick give a slippery slope argument from the fact that it's fine to tell paternalistic lies in some cases to the conclusion that it's okay to tell any paternalistic lie intended to maximize aggregate happiness? How could you give a slippery slope argument to the opposite conclusion?
3. Kant believes that we must always act so as to treat humanity as an end, and not merely as a means. What does this mean? Why does it entail that lying is always wrong? Explain why autonomy seems to be a matter of degree, and show how we can give a slippery slope argument that paternalistic lies are always permissible, or that paternalistic lies are never permissible. Why would only the latter be acceptable to Kant?
4. Intuitively, it seems fine to tell paternalistic lies in some cases, but wrong to tell paternalistic lies in other cases. Give an example of an intuitively *impermissible* paternalistic lie that Sidgwick categorizes as permissible, and an example of an intuitively *permissible* paternalistic lie that Kant wrongly categorizes as impermissible. Explain why you think each lie is permissible or impermissible, respectively.

Make sure you answer *all four parts*. Your essay is due at the beginning of lecture on **September 8, 2015**.