

Questionnaire for Introduction to Ethics

(Given out on the first day of class.)

The following questions are to gauge some of your beliefs about some of the ethics-related topics we will be discussing this session. This is not graded.

1. Someone says to you: "Murder is wrong." What do you take them to be doing? (You may select more than one.)

- ☐ Saying something true (or false).
- ☐ Expressing a belief.
- ☐ Expressing a desire(s), an emotion(s) or some other attitude(s).
- ☐ Issuing a command.
- ☐ Speaking nonsense.

2. Which claim do you agree with most?

- ☐ Nothing is really morally right, wrong, good or bad.
- ☐ In all cases, what is morally right, wrong, good or bad is determined by oneself, one's society, one's culture, or the time in which one lives.
- ☐ Some things really are morally right, wrong, good or bad for everyone, everywhere, at all times.

3. Which claim do you agree with more?

- ☐ Ultimately, what makes an action right or wrong is the consequences of that action.
- ☐ Actions can be right or wrong because of the actor's intentions or character, regardless of the outcome.

Questions 4-12 are True/False. Please write T or F as appropriate.

_____ 4. Ultimately, all human actions are motivated by self-interest.

_____ 5. If something is morally wrong, it should be illegal.

_____ 6. If there is no God, then nothing is really morally right, wrong, good or bad.

_____ 7. Ultimately, the only thing we care about is happiness. Everything else we care about we care about only insofar as it will help make us happy.

_____ 8. It is right to kill one person to save five.

_____ 9. There are some things you should always or never do, no matter what the consequences.

_____ 10. All things considered, you should always do what is morally right.

_____ 11. If someone had no reason to fear retribution for his actions, he would stop acting morally.

_____ 12. If it were not ultimately in my interest to act morally, I would have no reason to do so.

Questions 13 and 14 may be answered Yes or No (Y/N).

_____ 13. By pressing a button, you will save an innocent human life somewhere on Earth. There will be no other important consequences. Do you have an obligation to press the button?

_____ 14. If you believed that everyone else was going to stop acting morally, would you?