**CORE106 Fall 2016**

**September 30, 2015**

**Notes**

Plato Crito:

* Table setting: the situation is corrupt, and Socrates can leave if he wants to.

(46) “Bear..misfortune easily and lightly,”

(47) The dream: its significance?

Crito is worried about Socrates reputation…if he doesn’t leave, people won’t know he had the chance to do so.

**PROJECT I: “They cannot make a man either wise or foolish, but they inflict things haphazardly.”**

DECONSTRUCT THIS SENTENCE

( 48) “What you are doing is not just..to give up your life when you can save it.” Interesting notions of suicide.

**PROJECT II: Is Socrates a coward?**

Why does Socrates think that saving himself is a contradiction of everything else he has said?

(49) First problem: when is it reasonable to listen to the “opinions of men”? Which opinions do we listen to? What’s a “good opinion”? Are experts most credible

(50) Weird point about “life worth living with a body that is corrupted and in bad condition.”

(50) KEY PASSAGE: Is life worth living for us with that part of us corrupted that unjust action harms and just action benefits. Or do we think that part of us, whatever it is, that is concerned with justice and injustice, is inferior to the body?”

“The most important thing is not life, but the good life.” What would Douglass say in response?

Why? Because if we corrupt something, then life is compromised.

(51) Is leaving “just” when Socrates has been convicted?

(52) Do we every say that wrong is okay, conditionally? Harm and shame are not justified by “gentle treatment.”

Seems insensitive to dilemmas. “One must not inflict wrong in return when wronged.” (52) No eyes for eyes.

“When one has come to an agreement, should one fulfill it?” Well, of course?

“If we leave, we are harming people.”

**PROJECT III: Is an “arrangement” with society an “agreement”? (Sophisticated version: is there a social contract?) If we violate, are we harming other people?**

A small lie. One practical problem: expectations.

What do we owe our civilizations? Socrates: we brought you to birth.

(54) DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE THIS RIGHT TO RETALIATION AGAINST YOUR COUNTRY AND ITS LAWS?

SOCRATES CLEARLY BELIEVES YOUR COUNTRY IS WORTH A GREAT DEAL OF HONOR, INTRINSICIALLY.

Has Socrates persuaded you in the slightest? “What if everybody violated the will of the city?”

COLLECTIVE WILL.

Think of the practical consequences in this case. Athens arguably convicted Socrates because they were “gaming” his behavior. The outcome was his death.

(55) “…you are breaking the commitments and agreements that you made with us without compulsion or deceit, and under no pressure of time for deliberation.”

Where are social contracts in our lives?

When does the contract get violated?

What are the hidden consequences?