# Contemporary Moral Problems

## October 31, 2012

Don Marquis

* **General Approach**
  + **What is wrong with killing us?** 
    - What explains the misfortune of premature death?
      * *Not* that it deprives us of biological life
      * *Not* any conscious life
      * It deprives us of the “future goods of consciousness”
  + **Flo account**
    - Killing is wrong because it deprives one of a “future like ours” (FLO)
    - Defending FLO
      * Worst of crimes argument
        + Explains why murder is the worst of crimes
      * Explains why there are some cases of active euthanasia as permissible
        + Active euthanasia is permissible when it doesn’t have a FLO
      * When there is no consciousness or there is a future of only pain
        + There’s a difference between someone who is permanently and temporarily unconscious. One has a FLO and one doesn’t.
  + **What are the future goods of consciousness?**
    - Whatever we get out of life.
    - Those items for which we take a pro attitude
    - Completed projects of which we are proud, pursuit of our goals, aesthetic enjoyments, intellectual pursuits, physical pleasure of various sorts, friendship, and whatever makes worth living.
* **The Argument**
  + **It is wrong to kill anything with a FLO**
  + **Fetuses have a FLO**
  + **Therefore, it is wrong to kill fetuses**
* **Objections**
  + **Potentiality**
    - The FLO argument is a potentiality argument, potentials for things in the future.
    - Potentiality arguments are invalid
    - Therefore, the FLO argument is invalid
    - His reply: Potentiality (ie Flo) is present throughout the argument (ie Both premises) therefore the argument is **not** invalid
  + **Contraception**
    - Professor Norcross
    - ***GET IT FROM BB!2***