

## PHI 169 – CRITICAL REASONING

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ARGUMENT ANALYSIS – SPRING 2016

Please read the following quotation from a controversial article on the killing of a new born:

... The moral status of an infant is equivalent to that of a fetus in the sense that both lack those properties that justify the attribution of a right to life to an individual.

...

Our point here is that ... a necessary condition for a subject to have a right to X is that she is harmed by a decision to deprive her of X.

...

Those who are only capable of experiencing pain and pleasure (like perhaps fetuses and certainly newborns) have a right not to be inflicted pain. If, in addition to experiencing pain and pleasure, an individual is capable of making any aims (like actual human and non-human persons), she is harmed if she is prevented from accomplishing her aims by being killed. Now, hardly can a newborn be said to have aims ... It might start having expectations and develop a minimum level of self-awareness at a very early stage, but not in the first days or few weeks after birth.

(From Giubilini-Minerva, *After-birth abortion: why should the baby live?*, Journal of Medical Ethics, 2012)

Please do the following:

- (a) Identify the conclusion of the argument.
- (b) Identify the premises of the argument.
- (c) Summarize the argument in terms of if-then statements. (Few sentences will be enough.)
- (d) Does the argument, explicitly or implicitly, identify necessary conditions? Explain.
- (e) Is it a deductively valid argument, inductively valid argument, or neither? Explain.
- (f) Is the argument good? Explain. Remember the two features of a good argument.