

This assignment is due in class on Friday, November 30. Late papers will be subject to grade penalty.

Write an essay of about five to seven pages on one of the following topics: (Please indicate clearly which topic you have chosen on your title page.)

1. Are combatants engaged in war morally entitled to kill (deliberately aim lethal fire at) each other independently of whether or not they are fighting for a just cause? A "Yes" answer to this question is the doctrine Michael Walzer calls the "moral equality of soldiers" and defends in chapter 3 of his book *Just and Unjust Wars*. (Walzer may instead be defending a closely related view, that combatants engaged in war are never morally blameworthy merely for killing enemy combatants.). (a) State Walzer's position on this issue, (b) state his main arguments for it, and (c) defend or attack it in the light of Jeff McMahan's counterarguments.
2. "A person who is committed to act-consequentialist morality is committed (a) to giving the interests of her friends no more weight than the comparable interests of anyone else in deciding what to do, (b) to betraying any friend whenever doing so would produce the best total outcome, and (c) to cutting off a friendship whenever doing so would produce the best total outcome. These required commitments of act-consequentialism rule out entering into genuine friendship relations. The act-consequentialist cannot be a friend."—Is this quoted statement a good objection against act-consequentialism? Why or why not? Your discussion of this issue should include a discussion of the views of Peter Railton in "Alienation, Consequentialism, and the Demands of Morality." Your discussion might also advert to the required conditions for valuable friendship or love or for ideal friendship in the writings of Thomas Hurka or Neera Badhwar. You need not mention these authors' views but you should anchor your discussion by specifying some defensible conception of genuine, valuable friendship.
3. According to Elizabeth Anscombe's views as expressed in her essay "War and Murder," one morally must not violate the moral rule against wrongful homicide whatever the consequences. But this rule should be understood as incorporating the Doctrine of Double Effect, so that, for example, it can be morally permissible for combatants in war to aim their fire at enemy combatants while knowing that some of their bullets will hit and kill nearby noncombatants, even though it is strictly forbidden to take aim at noncombatants. Assess the absolutism of the prohibition Anscombe endorses and its reliance on the Doctrine of Double Effect. Your discussion should consider the opposed view that whether an act is morally permissible or impermissible depends only on the features of the act itself and not on the quality of the motive or intention an agent would have in doing the act.
4. Michael Walzer proposes that a just war is either a war against aggression or a war against anticipated aggression or a war to counterbalance improper intervention in a civil war or a war to assist a struggle for secession or a war of humanitarian intervention to prevent enslavement or massacre within a country. Walzer's list is intended to be exhaustive; according to him, nothing else justifies war. Does Walzer's list fail to include some legitimate reasons for waging war or include some reasons that should not be counted as legitimate or both? Summarize Walzer's account of just war and defend or attack it.

Your essays will be graded according to the cogency of your arguments, the soundness of the understanding of course texts you display, and the clarity of your prose.

Avoid long quotations from course texts. To show that a course text says what you say it does, support your interpretations of texts with precise footnote references.

Your essay should reflect your own independent reading and thinking about the topic, and should not plagiarize--represent another person's ideas or words as your own. Any borrowing of the words or ideas of another in your paper should be acknowledged in footnotes. See the UCSD Student Code on Integrity of Scholarship.

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