University of Kansas, Fall 2009 Philosophy 670: Contemporary Ethical Theory Ben Eggleston—eggleston@ku.edu November 30, 2009

Preview of Test 2

The test will be given in class on Friday, December 4. I anticipate that you will be asked to answer five of the eleven questions listed at the end of this document, though I reserve the right to depart from this plan if circumstances seem to warrant it.

You do not need to bring anything, except for something to write with; this will be a closed-book, closed-notes test, and you will be provided with paper on which to write your answers. At the beginning of the exam period, the following instructions will be written on the board:

- 1. Please put away everything except for something to write with.
- 2. Please use a separate sheet of paper for each answer.
- 3. Please number each of your answers conspicuously.

Then the following will happen:

- 1. I will ask you to close and/or put away all books, notebooks, newspapers, calculators, computers, and other possible sources of inappropriate aid.
- 2. I will hand out blank sheets of paper that you will use as your answer sheets.
- 3. I will hand out the list of questions given below, marked to indicate which five questions the test consists of.
- 4. You will answer the questions on the answer sheets, using a separate answer sheet for each question.
- 5. You will label each answer sheet that you will turn in with one of your random numbers. You'll use the same random number for each of your answer sheets, but this will not be any random number that you have used in this class previously (i.e., for any previous assignment). You will not put any other identifying information (such as your name) on any of your answer sheets.
- 6. You will turn in your answer sheets. You will not need to turn in the list of questions.

Here is some additional information:

- 1. You can write on the list of questions that I hand out, but credit will be awarded only for answers written on answer sheets.
- 2. You will not be allowed to (a) access any book, notebook, newspaper, calculator, computer, or other possible source of inappropriate aid during the test, (b) leave the room before you turn in your answers, or (c) use more time than the 50-minute testing period. No credit will be given for any work done after you access any possible source of inappropriate aid, after you leave the room for any reason, or after the end of the testing period.

Finally, the eleven questions I mentioned are on the next page.

- 1. Nonconsequentialists typically endorse (a) prerogatives not to maximize the good and (b) constraints on maximizing the good. What does it mean to say that there are prerogatives not to maximize the good, and what does it mean to say that there are constraints on maximizing the good? If one is not allowed to cause a harm to another as a means to causing a larger benefit to a third party, is that a prerogative or a constraint, and why?
- 2. What does it mean to call an imperative a *categorical* one? Could a pretty specific imperative, such as "Never lie unless doing so is necessary to protect the life of someone who is both (a) someone whose life you have promised to protect and (2) someone who does not, himself or herself, habitually lie" (which you can refer to as Imperative 1) be a categorical imperative?
- 3. In the development of social-contract theory, actual consent was supplanted by hypothetical consent because neither of the forms of actual consent—explicit consent and tacit consent—was satisfactory. What was wrong with basing the theory on actual consent, and what was wrong with basing the theory on tacit consent?
- 4. What is the main thesis of intuitionism? What is the main thesis of generalism? Can an intuitionist be a generalist?
- 5. What is the difference between a rights theory of the kind developed by, e.g., Nozick and a rights theory based on, e.g., indirect consequentialism?
- 6. What is the main thesis of libertarianism? What, if anything, does it have to do with the distinction between positive and negative rights?
- 7. What are the two kinds of care that Slote includes in his ethics of care? (Be sure to describe them adequately, not just name them.) And what is the kind of thinking that Slote recommends for prioritizing between these two kinds of care?
- 8. What are at least three of the main tenets of the feminist ethics of care that Jaggar describes (before criticizing that view and offering her own alternative)?
- 9. What are at least three of the main themes of continental ethics?
- 10. What does it mean to say that an ethical theory is criterial? Are pragmatists typically proponents of criterial ethical theories?
- 11. What is one of the three possible reconciliations that Sterba proposes? (Be sure to describe it adequately, not just name it.)