

## **Intro to Ethics**

**Dr. Heather Salazar**

**Take-Home Essay #1**

**Due: Mon 2/25 (for evening class); Tue 2/26 (for day classes)**

Please answer the prompt below in three to four pages. Observe the guidelines in the syllabus for paper presentation. Your paper is due as an email attachment in MS word and as a hard-copy at the beginning of your regular class period on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The movie which this paper requires you to analyze will be shown Mon and Tue, Feb 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-9:30pm in Byrne. You may choose which showing is more convenient for you. It will also be on reserve at the library for check out. A good paper will be complete, clear, thoughtful, original, and display your ideas in a well-reasoned way. You will very likely want to paraphrase and quote the movie at times. Keep the quotes focused and short and make sure to analyze the meanings of the evidence that you use thoroughly. Although you may discuss the movie with others in and outside of class, you may not cooperate on organizing or writing the essay, nor may you use research from outside of this class in this essay. You may want to have someone read your paper and comment on it after you have completed a draft. Please observe this person in your references. Please review the guidelines from the college and for this class on academic integrity. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your ideas with me, please see me in my office hours or make an appointment with me.

Rawls' Difference Principle states that inequalities are only justified if they benefit the least well-off group in society. How fully do Gandhi's actions and ideas (as portrayed in the movie, *Gandhi*) embody this notion of Rawls'? Consider all types of people in the society in your analysis: different races, classes, sexes and religions.... Give evidence throughout the movie. You may use other people in the movie as a comparison with Gandhi, if you would like, though you are not required to do so. In answering, make sure to explain the difference principle and how it might be most successfully realized in the cases presented in the movie, as well.

### **The Elements of a Good Philosophy Paper**

- 1. Clarity:** Your paper should make the complex philosophical concepts and arguments clear and as easy to understand as possible. This can be accomplished through precise statements of your intent, your arguments and your conclusions, as well as your definitions of key terms throughout the paper. In addition, it will be helpful if you use examples.
- 2. Logical Structure:** Your paper should progress in a natural way, starting with more fundamental or easily accepted premises and arguing based off of these. Your reasoning process should be clear.
- 3. Thoughtfulness:** Your paper should explore the issues involved thoroughly and from different angles. Without thoughtfulness, you do not have a philosophical paper, but merely an exposition of philosophical ideas.
- 4. Originality:** Your paper should have your own mark upon it and should never be a mere recitation of others' thoughts without your own evaluation of them. Your own examples, interpretations and reasoning all serve to increase the originality (and philosophical value) of your paper.

**Intro to Ethics  
Dr. Heather Salazar  
Paper Evaluation Sample**

**Name:**

**1. Understanding of Theories:**

Inadequate understanding, basic understanding, good understanding, excellent understanding

**2. Completeness of Analysis:**

2a. Amount of Evidence Considered:

Very little evidence presented, some evidence presented, many evidence presented

2b. Depth of Evidence Considered:

Little analysis of evidence, some analysis of evidence, much analysis of evidence

**3. Thoughtfulness of Analysis and Reply:**

Little or no thoughtfulness, some thoughtfulness, much thoughtfulness

\* Each of these areas requires clarity, detail, good reasoning, thoughtfulness, and your original perspective (see Elements of a Good Philosophy Paper).

**General Comments:**

**Grade:**