

Philosophy 20 - Ethics

Fall 2017

Exam #1

DO NOT USE THE INTERNET TO RESEARCH THESE QUESTIONS. Anything cited or downloaded from the internet will be considered plagiarism. See syllabus for penalties for plagiarism.

Write two essays. Each essay should be typed and double-spaced, approximately three pages for each question.

1) Essay #1 has two parts:

a. Would you describe yourself as an ethical relativist (conventionalist or subjectivist), a universalist (hard or soft), a moral skeptic or a moral nihilist? Be careful to define your position and explain how it differs from the other categories. Justify your position as best you can, that is, explain your reasons or arguments for your position. If you are not comfortable in any of these categories, pick the one that you feel best characterizes your position.

b. What do you consider the strongest objections to your position and why? What weaknesses and inconsistencies do you see in this position? What do you consider to be the strongest arguments against your position?

2) What was Nietzsche's purpose in describing the differences between "master morality" and "slave morality"? What does he mean by the difference between "good" vs "bad" and "good" vs "evil" and how do these distinctions affect his analysis of the origins of morality?