

## MIDTERM EXAM QUESTIONS

POLI 27, Mackie, Fall 2018

1. Explain several ways that morality can fail, including one way to fail not highlighted in our readings. Pick a concrete example of moral failure from history, literature, journalism, your imagination, or the experiences of people you know; from any realm of life., e.g., war, business, family, friendship. How and why did moral failure occur? How might that failure have been avoided or prevented? In passing, how might different types of moral theories (consequentialism, deontology, etc.) encourage or discourage the failure you identify? A well-developed example helps, but also remember to relate the content to course materials.

2. Pick a legal or social practice common in a community, society, or country that is accepted as right or appropriate by many of the people there, but is believed by many outsiders to be unacceptably harmful to people, and either mistaken or wrong. The majority of harmful practices disadvantage women, so that is one area to look, but anything legal or social and arguably harmful will do. Design for that group a harmonization of moral, social, and legal norms approach to the problem, using the broad ideas from Bogotá, but not copying mechanically the specific tactics that city applied. Also, as an outside adviser, justify to your concerned clients how your project and program design would deal with the issues of cultural difference, moral universalism, and moral relativism.

3. The Tavani reading supplemented by Bentham, O'Neill, Smith, and lecture examples provides a framework to make sense of moral claims and assess the validity of moral arguments. Drawing from this work, answer the following questions. What kinds of moral issues are faced by people occupying a public role (civil engineer, government administrator, politician)? What different evaluative criteria are at stake in, for example, deciding to use cost-benefit-analysis versus a human-rights approach (just an example, we considered varieties of consequentialist, deontological, and virtue theories) in deciding on an action that affects the public? Be sure to clearly specify the views you are entertaining, the evaluative criteria at stake, and the reasoning behind favoring one over another. The use of either real-world or imaginary examples is highly recommended, provided they accurately illustrate the concepts at hand (be sure to make clear why they do)