

Second Paper Topic
Philosophy 24
Spring, 2014

Length should be approximately 5 pages. Please use a line spacing of 3 lines per inch (double-spaced) and a left margin of 1½ inches, 1 inch elsewhere. Point size may be no less than 12. Papers will be evaluated on the basis of both content and quality of writing. You must cite your sources, including the assigned readings in the text. You may also cite the material on the course Web site.

Due: May 27, in class.

Explain what *utilitarianism* is and give at least one reason in favor of that view of the rightness or wrongness of actions. Then explain the difference between *act-* and *rule-utilitarianism*. Give an account of what you think is the strongest objection to act-utilitarianism made by the rule-utilitarian. Then show how rule-utilitarianism is supposed to overcome the objection while preserving the motivation for utilitarianism that you have described. Finally, take your own stand on the issues. State whether you believe utilitarianism is the best account of the rightness and wrongness of actions, and if so, which version you think is better. Then defend your claims.