



This is a graded discussion: 10 points possible

due Oct 2 at 1:59am

Week 2 - Discussion 1

1 1


Your initial discussion thread is due on Day 3 (Thursday) and you have until Day 7 (Monday) to respond to your classmates. Your grade will reflect both the quality of your initial post and the depth of your responses. Refer to the Discussion Forum Grading Rubric under the Settings icon above for guidance on how your discussion will be evaluated.

Week 2 Discussion [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 3, 4, 5] <

Post on at least three separate days. This week our main discussion will focus on explaining and evaluating the utilitarian ethical theory as discussed in Chapter 3 of the textbook. Your instructor will be choosing the discussion question and posting it as the first post in the main discussion forum. The requirements for the discussion this week include the following:

- You must begin posting by Day 3 (Thursday).
- You must post a minimum of four separate posts on at least three separate days (e.g., Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, or Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, or Thursday, Saturday, and Monday, etc.).
- The total combined word count for all of your posts, counted together, should be at least 600 words, not including references.
- You must answer all the questions in the prompt and show evidence of having read the resources that are required to complete the discussion properly (such as by using quotes, referring to specific points made in the text, etc.).
- In order to satisfy the posting requirements for the week, posts must be made by Day 7 (Monday); posts made after Day 7 are welcome but will not count toward the requirements.
- Be sure to reply to your classmates and instructor. You are encouraged to read posts your instructor makes (even if they are not in response to your own post) and reply to

your instructor makes (even if they are not in response to your own post) and reply to those as a way of examining the ideas in greater depth.

- All postings (including replies to peers) are expected to be thought out, proofread for mechanical, grammatical, and spelling accuracy, and to advance the discussion in an intelligent and meaningful way (i.e., saying something like “I really enjoyed what you had to say” will not count). You are also encouraged to do outside research and quote from that as well.
- For more information, please read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) .

This discussion will be assessed on a 10-point scale and is **worth 4% of your final grade.**

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Cora Moore (<https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/73114/users/4924>)

3:20pm



Week 2 Discussion# 1: Objections to Utilitarianism

To ensure that your initial post starts its own unique thread, do not reply to this post. Instead, please click the "Reply" link above this post.

Please read the general discussion requirements above, as well as the announcements explaining the discussion requirements and answering the most frequently asked questions. If you are still unsure about how to proceed with the discussion, please reply to one of those announcements or contact your instructor.

This discussion runs from Tuesday, September 29, 2020 - Monday, October 5, 2020.

Initial post due Thursday, October 1, by midnight

last day to participate is Monday

You must post 4 posts over 3 days.

In the course of the week's discussion, you will need to do the following (not necessarily in this order):

1. Engage with the text:

Using at least one quote from one of the required readings, briefly explain the ethical theory of utilitarianism. Cite in APA

Ethical theories have core ideas, principles, and assumptions. For any ethical theory, there are objections that can be raised against those core ideas, principles, and assumptions. Several objections to utilitarianism are discussed in Chapter 3, Section 3.5 of the textbook, and John Stuart Mill (2017/1863) discusses 8 objections in *Utilitarianism* (in Chapter 3 of the textbook, the text can be found under "Primary Sources" and the objections under the section, "Objections and Replies") (Thames, 2018). Utilitarianism is the theory that attempts to find how we can be happy in life and who is allowed to be happy. Utilitarianism is the theory that focuses on the greater good and attempts to figure out the thoughts and actions that help us find the happiness in life that appeals to the majority. It sounds nice, right? However, what happens when you are not in the majority? How does your happiness factor in the equation then? The main flaw with utilitarianism is that it has historically been used to justify the oppression of many groups with acts like slavery and genocide being the most heinous examples. Because of the justification of atrocious acts against other human beings, utilitarian thought requires much re-examination so that we can find a way to create happiness for all groups, or, at least, not cause other harm in our journey.

Choose one of these objections and briefly explain the core idea in your own words.

1. Reflect on the theory:

Present a scenario (real or imagined) in which a committed utilitarian would probably make one choice, but someone who finds this objection compelling would probably make a different choice. (In other words, put yourself in the mind of someone making that objection, and you're imagining a scenario in which that person would likely

make a certain ethical judgment but a utilitarian would make a different ethical judgment.)

1. Reflect on yourself:

In your view, does considering this situation strengthen and support the objection (thus showing a weakness to utilitarianism), or does it help strengthen utilitarianism by showing how a utilitarian could respond to that objection?

1. Discuss with your peers:

Discuss the scenarios raised by your peers, and if they use that scenario to defend utilitarianism, consider what the objector might say in response; if they use that scenario to challenge utilitarianism, consider what a utilitarian might say in response.

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to understand the reasons they are
ons. One good way of doing this is
critique or evaluation.

You must begin posting by Day 3 (Thursday).

You must post a minimum of four separate posts on at least three separate days; 1 initial post and 3 participation posts

If you have any questions or need any help, please let me know!

Thanks,

Professor Moore

Reference

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (https://ashford.instructure.com/courses/32523/external_tools/retrieve?display=borderless&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcontent.ashford.edu%2Fti%3Fbookcode%3DThames.5057.18.1) (3rd ed.). <https://content.ashford.edu>

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