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CS 33006

Midterm Exam

Social & Ethical Issues

Monday 11 October 2010

1. Briefly give a couple of examples from Quinn Chapter 1 illustrating how a technological change led to new social or ethical issues. (15 points)

2. Describe the early development of the telegraph and why it was such a big deal in the mid 1800s. (10 points)

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3. One of the first ethical theories examined by Quinn is the Divine Command Theory.

a. What is the Divine Command Theory? (10 points)

b. In what way(s) is Divine Command Theory *similar* to Cultural Relativism? (5 points)

c. In what way(s) is Divine Command Theory *different* from Cultural Relativism? (5 points)

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4. What was Kant's 1st formulation of the Categorical Imperative, and what does it mean? (15 points)

5. What does John Rawl's Principle of Justice say? (10 points)

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6. Given all the spam filters that we have, together with all the other methods in place for fighting spam, we never even see most of the spam being sent, so why should we care that spammers are still sending it? (5 points)

7. Kant had strong views on censorship. What were his views, and why did he hold those views? (10 points)

8. What does the First Amendment to the Constitution say (more or less, I don't expect you to know it word for word)? (5 points)

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9. The Child Internet Protection Act, among other things, requires libraries receiving federal networking funds to filter pages containing obscenity or child pornography.

a. What are the arguments *in favor of* this filtering? (5 points)

b. What are the arguments *against* this filtering? (5 points)