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CS 33006 Midterm Exam

Social & Ethical Issues

Tuesday 8 March 2011

Be careful to clearly answer the question that is asked. If a question has several items requested, make sure you give an answer to each part. If a question asks for an analysis (e.g., how do these two things differ?) do not simply define each of the two things. Finally, pay attention to point values and allocate your time and amount of writing accordingly.

1. Before punched cards were used in data processing systems and computers, they were used in tabulators — mechanical devices that could sort cards and compute totals. What were these tabulators used for? (5 points)

2. The early French telegraphs were considerably different from the device that Samuel Morse later invented. What were those early French telegraphs, and how were they used? (5 points)

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3. One of the ethical theories that we examined in Chapter 2 was Cultural Relativism. What is this theory, what is the case **for** this theory, and the case **against** this theory? (20 points)

4. The First Formulation of Kant's Categorical Imperative is "Act only from moral rules that you can at the same time will to be universal moral laws." What does this mean? (15 points)

5. How is Rule Utilitarianism similar to Act Utilitarianism, and how is it different? (10 points)

6. Why was Kant opposed to censorship, and what was his argument against it? (10 points)

7. What are the arguments **for**, and **against**, installing web filters on computers in libraries to block pages containing pornography (10 points)

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8. List five or more examples of trademarks. (10 points)

9. Article I, Section 8, of the US Constitution gives Congress the power to protect certain types of intellectual property for "limited times". What is the "limit" on trade secrets, trademarks, and patents? (15 points)