

## WEEK 10 EXERCISES

*Instructions: Answers must be typed. Include your name and some identifying description of this course. Submissions of more than one page MUST BE STAPLED. Use 12-point font and double-spacing. I will NOT accept handwritten work. This assignment is due in class on Wednesday, November 12.*

### Exercise 34

*I argued that  $U_1$  is a bad formulation of utilitarianism because it entails that acts meeting certain conditions are both right and wrong. What are these conditions? What makes these acts right according to  $U_1$ ? What makes them wrong?*

**$U_1$ :** An act is morally right if and only if it produces pleasure. An act is morally wrong if and only if it produces pain.

### Exercise 35

*Consider the core idea of utilitarianism: “actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness; wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness.” According to  $U_2$ , the amount of pain that an action causes is completely irrelevant to whether it’s right or wrong. As a result, bullying, so long as it’s enjoyable for the bully, is morally right. This seems incorrect. But more importantly for our purposes, this runs counter to the core idea of utilitarianism. Why is this? (Hint: Remember the happiness is defined as “pleasure and the absence of pain.”)*

**$U_2$ :** An act is morally right if and only if it produces pleasure.

### Exercise 36

*In unfortunate circumstances it may be that the most we can do to “promote happiness” is to minimize pain. Suppose you run a small company that has come upon hard times. You’re a compassionate boss and you’d like to retain as many employees as possible, but if you don’t cut some jobs now, the company will go bankrupt and there won’t be any jobs at all. Faced with this tough choice, you decide to cut jobs. Hopefully the economy will improve quickly and you’ll be able to hire again soon. Your action causes lots of suffering for those who are laid off and very little pleasure for you. According to  $U_3$ , have you acted rightly or wrongly? Is this result in keeping with the core idea of utilitarianism? Explain.*

**$U_3$ :** An act is right if and only if it has positive utility.