

PHIL 226
Biomedical Ethics
Paul Thagard

- Please do not sit in the back row unless you are NOT officially enrolled in the class.
- Please turn off and put away all electronics.

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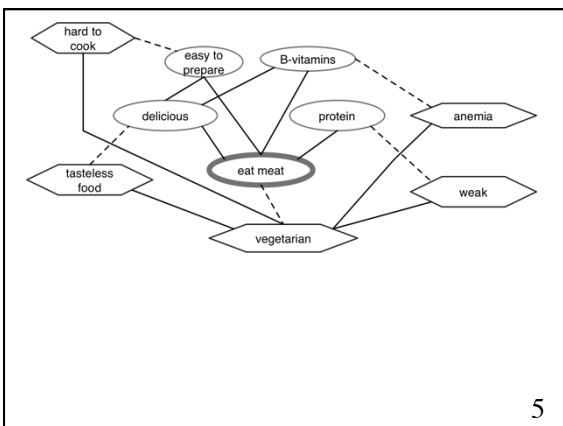
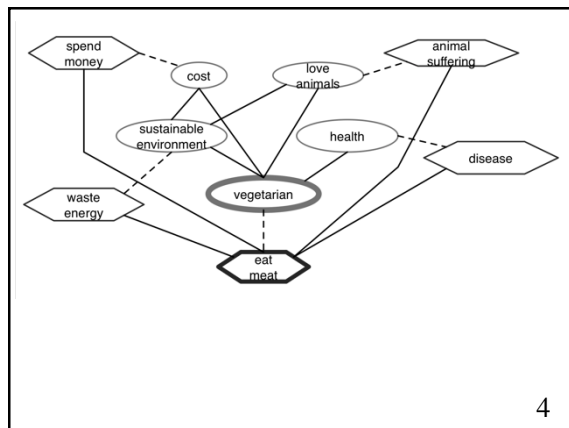
| | Consequences For/Against | Rights/duties For/Against | Principles For/Against |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Option 1 | | | |
| Option 2 | | | |
| Option 3 | | | |
| ... | | | |

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Ethical Conduct of Research: Principles

1. Respect for persons: autonomy, protect those with diminished autonomy
2. Concern for welfare: quality of life, avoidance of harm
3. Justice: fairness and equality

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Concepts

- What are the goals of the health sciences?
- How to define *health* and *disease*?
- What are concepts?
 - Defined: necessary and conditions.
 - Exemplars: good examples and counterexamples.
 - Prototypes: typical conditions.
 - Explanations: causal relations.

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What is Health? WHO

- "Health is a state of complete physical and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."
- "The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being."

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My Attempt

- Health is the capacity to satisfy your needs, both biological and psychological.
- Does not have to be complete: matter of degree.
- Exemplars and counter-exemplars.
- Prototypical cases.
- Causal explanations.

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Discussion

- What do you think health is? Consider both positive and negative cases.

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What is Disease?

1. Biological definition (objective): disease is an impairment of normal biological function. The concept of disease is descriptive and scientific.
2. Social definition (normative): disease is a condition that constitutes a threat to well-being. The concept of disease is normative and value-laden, relative to social contexts.

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Synthesis

- A disease is a breakdown in normal biological mechanisms that diminishes people's ability to satisfy their vital needs.
- Vital needs:
 - Biological: food, water, shelter, health
 - Psychological: autonomy, competence, relatedness

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Health Care Issues

- What kind of health care system should a country have?
- What treatments should be provided by a health care system?

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Health Delivery Options

1. Current Canadian system.
2. Modified Canadian system, reformed.
3. Free market: health is a commodity.
4. Modified free market (US): national coverage for old and very poor.
5. Two tier system (UK): national health plan, but people may also access private system.
6. Medical savings plan (Singapore). Everyone has a sum of money to spend on health care, and extreme expenses are covered.

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Current Canadian System

1. Publicly administered
2. Comprehensive: all health services
3. Universal: covers all people
4. Portable: between provinces
5. Accessible

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Discussion

- Do people have a right to maximal, adequate, minimal, or any health care?
- Do consequences and/or principles support universal health care?

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