



Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus

By Lawrence M. Hinman

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Contemporary Moral Issues is an anthology that provides a selection of readings on contemporary social issues revolving around three general themes: Matters of Life and Death, Matters of Equality and Diversity, and Expanding the Circle, which includes duties beyond borders, living together with animals, and environmental ethics. The text contains a number of distinctive, high-profile readings and powerful narratives, including Jonathan Foer's "Eating Animals," Eva Feder Kittay's "On the Ethics of Selective Abortion for Disability," and Susan M. Wolf's "Confronting Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia: My Father's Death." Each set of readings is accompanied by an extensive introduction, a bibliographical essay, pre-reading questions, and discussion questions.

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Editorial Review

From the Author

This book is intended to help students develop their own well-informed and well-reasoned views on key contemporary moral issues such as abortion and capital punishment and also to help students to understand and appreciate the views of those on other sides of the issues. In order to do this, the book provides and analyzes key ethical arguments on each issue, provides important empirical background on each issue, and offers compelling personal narratives from individuals confronting these issues in real life.

This book grew out of teaching a course at the University of San Diego on contemporary moral issues, and I am grateful to my students over the years for their insights and participation. If you use this book and have suggestions about how to make it better, please don't hesitate to email me at hinman@sandiego.edu.

From the Inside Flap

Contemporary Moral Issues combines **arguments** and **personal narratives** to introduce students to the key issues and develop their interest and understanding of the ways in which these issues are encountered in everyday life. In addition to **readings**, it contains **extensive critical introductions** by the editor that provide both the empirical and philosophical background to understand the issues and develop a critical position in regard to them. It also includes **bibliographical essays** on each topic and **extensive WWW support**.

The text retains its original structure, and includes some standard pieces (such as Rachels on active and passive euthanasia and Jane English's piece on abortion) and some excellent new pieces by philosophers, but it also includes important narrative pieces that help situate these issues within the context of everyday life.

These include:

- An exchange of letters between **Eva Feder Kittay** and her son Leo on the meaning of selective abortion for disabilities both for families and society as a whole;
- **Katy Duke**'s story in *The Lancet* about a "**savior baby**" conceived by Swiss parents in Belgium;
- **Michael Sandel** on the case against enhancement;
- Ruth Padawer's *NYT Magazine* article (2011) on the "**reduction**" of pregnancy from twins to a single child;
- **Atul Gawande**'s *New Yorker* article about end-of-life decisions, "Letting Go;"
- **Susan M. Wolf**'s Hastings Center piece on "My Father's Death"
- **Sr. Helen Prejean**'s account of ministering to the families of murder victims;
- **David Gelernter**, the Yale computer scientist who was almost killed by the **Unabomber**, on what murders deserve;
- **Nancy Sherman**'s recent article from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* on the moral wounds that soldiers suffer in combat;
- **Stephen Carter** (Yale Law) on the wrongness of torture, even when it works
- **Alan Dershowitz** in defense of warrants for torture;
- **Michael Walzer** on humanitarian intervention;
- Greg Velasco y Trianoski's "**Beyond Mestizaje**," on the future of race in America
- Kathy Miriam on "**Stopping the Traffic in Women**"
- **Hillary Rodham Clinton**'s 2011 address on LGBT rights in an international context;
- **Martha Nussbaum** on gay marriage and constitutional law;
- **Tom Pögge** on the moral demands of global justice;
- **Jonathan Safran Foer** on eating animals;

- Sociobiologist **Edward O. Wilson**'s letter to a southern pastor on the environment
- **Luciano Floridi**'s reflections on Julian Assange and the ethics of **WikiLeaks**.
- **Jim Moor** on whether we should let computers get under our skins.

Helpful aids to students:

- **An Ethical Self-Assessment**, keyed to the topics in the chapters, to help students track the changes in their moral beliefs.
- **Pre-reading questions** to focus students' attention in reading.
- **Follow-up/discussion questions** after readings.
- **Bibliographical essays** to provide guides to current and classic literature on specific topics, including web resources.

From the Back Cover

New to this edition:

Chapter 1: Reproductive Choices

- A new selection on a real-life case of "**A Savior Baby**," conceived as a donor for a sibling
- New selection: an exchange between **Eva Feder Kittay and her son** about the ethics of selection abortion for disability
- A new selection by **Michael Sandel**, "**What's Wrong with Enhancement?**" that explores some of the arguments against enhancement
- Extensive critical introduction, with an **overview of arguments for and against new reproductive technologies**
- Consideration of recent moral objections relating to **stem cell research**

Chapter 2: Abortion

- New: Ruth Padayer's NYT account of **selective abortion from twins to "singletons"**
- New selection by **Robert George and Patrick Lee** on the wrong of abortion
- Expanded **critical introduction**
- New section of **relevant films**

Chapter 3: End-of-Life Decisions

- New selection from **Atul Gawande** on end-of-life choices and "**Letting Go**"
- New selection from **Susan M. Wolf** on her father's death
- **Expanded critical introduction**
- **Additional empirical background** on end-of-life practices

Chapter 4: Punishment & the Death Penalty

- **Updated critical introduction**
- **Extended empirical data** on the death penalty
- **Revised bibliographical essay**

Chapter 5: War, Terrorism, Counterterrorism

- New **narrative** selection by **Nancy Sherman**, "**Soldiers' Moral Wounds**"
- New article by **Stephen Carter**, "**Torture Can Be Wrong and Still Work**"
- Expanded discussion of **just war theory**
- Expanded discussion of **just peace**, with historical examples
- Extended discussion of **drones, robots and just war theory**

- Critical discussion of **pacifism** and **Realpolitik**

Chapter 6: Race and Ethnicity

- Expanded discussion of race and ethnicity
- **Critical assessment of separatist, assimilationist and pluralistic models** of race and ethnicity

Chapter 7: Gender

- **New selection on sex trafficking**
- Extended discussion of **sex selection and Amartya Sen**
- **Expanded bibliographical essay**

Chapter 8: Sexual Orientation

- New selection by **Martha Nussbaum on same-sex marriage and constitutional law**
- New selection by **Hillary Rodham Clinton on LGBT rights in an international context**
- Extended critical discussion of the **Unnaturalness Objection against Homosexuality**
- Discussion of the **models of the place of sexual orientation in society**

Chapter 9: World Hunger & Poverty

- New selection by **Tom Pögge on the Moral Demands of Global Justice**
- New selection by **Michael Walzer on Global and Local Justice**
- **Extended empirical background on world poverty**
- Extended critical analysis of the **arguments for and against aiding other countries**
- Extended **critical discussion of Hardin's lifeboat metaphor**

Chapter 10: Living Together with Animals

- New selection from **Jonathan Foer, "Eating Animals"**
- Expanded bibliographical essay

Chapter 11: Environmental Ethics

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jason Nunez:

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Luis Hahn:

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