

## Information Ethics

Washington State University, fall 2008

Assignments due for: **Dec. 11, 2008**

<http://wsuinformationethics.blogspot.com/>

Assignments:

[ ] **Write your ethical will. You will earn the 100 points as follows:**

**1. (30 points)** – Complete at least three of the writing exercises Baines presents in this reading (highlighted in boxes and labeled as numbered exercises); each one of those essays should be about a page in length, using a 12 point font, single spaced.

**2. (50 points)** – Use those exercises and other thoughts that arise from the reading, plus what you have learned from this class, to write an ethical will using one of Baines' three approaches (descriptions of those start on pg. 33).

For a paper to earn the full points in this section, it will **at least** meet the following criteria:

- \* At least two pages in length (12 point font, single spaced).
- \* Is written to a specific audience, such as “To my children ...” or “To my family ...” and keeps a warm and familiar tone throughout.
- \* Addresses common themes from the past *and* present *as well as* projects your thoughts into the future (pg. 17).
- \* Avoids platitudes, cliches, generalities and other worthless space fillers. Be as specific as you can about what you mean, and be as efficient as possible with your words. Cut all flabby prose.
- \* Is well written, demonstrating high competency with the language, including precise grammatical and compositional skill.
- \* Incorporates ideas illustrated in this class, using terminology and rationale that demonstrate deep thought about ethics, getting to the heart of such questions as “Should decisions be based on duty or consequences?” Or, “Is it my perspective that utilitarianism is for the greater good for everyone? Or just for me (egoism)? Or for others (altruism)?” Or, maybe you're an absolutist. Don't keep your readers guessing. Tell them what you think, incorporating ethics vocabulary.
- \* Makes the essential statement of how you believe to live a “moral and upright” life.

**3. (20 points)** – Present your ethical will to the class as an oral presentation.

**Please turn this collection of writings in stapled together, with the ethical will on top.**

Readings:

- “Ethical Wills,” by Barry Baines, pgs. 7-15, 31-55.