

2nd paper; due March 26. Counts for 20% of your final grade. Lateness: Lateness penalties do not kick in until after March 31. For every 24 hour period after 11:00 on March 31, .2 will be deducted.

approximately 1400-1800 words ***[Please give a word count, and number your pages.]***

In section II of the *Groundwork*, Kant provides several different formulations of the categorical imperative. One of these is the “formula of universal law” (FUL). This is stated on p. 81: “Act only on that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it become a universal law.” (Later on that page Kant slightly changes this formulation to include the idea of a “universal law of nature,” which Denis abbreviates as “FUL/N”). The second major formula is the “formula of humanity” (FH), also called the “formula of the end in itself”—“So act as to treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of any other, in every case at the same time as an end, never as a means only” (p. 88).

Kant implies that these formulations are meant to give us a way of deciding how to act. That is what a principle of practical reason is supposed to do.

(Indicate in your paper which part of the question you are answering, by putting e.g. “1a” “2b” etc. in the margin next to where you are answering that part or incorporating that information into your paper.)

1. Explain how the FUL (or FUL/N) works, according to Kant. That is, explain how it operates to guide conduct—how does it tell us what to do and not do.

a. In your explanation, refer to the 2nd (deceitful promise) example (p. 82) and the 4th (not helping) example (p. 83)

b. In your explanation, explain how Kant sees this formulation of the categorical imperative’s operation as exemplifying pure practical rationality.

2. With respect to the formula of humanity,

a. Explain how Kant derives the formula of humanity [argument mostly on 86-88].

b. Explain what the “formula of humanity” means (according to Kant). What does it mean to treat someone as an “end” as contrasted with treating her/him as a means only? ((a) and (b) are obviously connected with one another.)

c. Kant illustrates the functioning of the formula of humanity to tell us how to act, by using the same examples he uses for the formula of universal law, although he describes them a bit differently. In your explanation of how FH functions, refer to the 2nd (88-89) and 4th (89) examples.

3. Kant thinks that all the 3 or 5 (depending on how you count them) formulations “are at bottom only so many formulae of the very same law” (p. 94, 2nd paragraph). Part of what he means by this is that they generate the same moral guidance of our actions. But he seems to mean something beyond this also—that they somehow have the same fundamental meaning. By making use of your discussions of the 2 formulas in relation to the 2 examples, but also any other bases for argument (e.g. discussions of the 1st and 3rd examples), discuss whether (a) the duties that Kant says are generated in these examples are exactly the same (e.g. is the duty generated in relation to example 4 by FUL the exact same as the duty generated by FH), and (b) whether there are significant differences in the reasoning that Kant uses to arrive at those moral assessments, or are they really fundamentally the same, even though the language used to express them is different. Finally, (c) drawing on this discussion, discuss what you see as the significance of the differences in the two formulations.