

Second Paper Topic

Please answer one of the following questions in 900 words or less, about three double-spaced pages. Please put a paper copy in Michael Green's box in Pearsons 208 before 3:30 pm on Friday, October 8. Please leave an electronic copy in the Sakai drop box as well. Good luck!

1. Both Rawls and Dworkin are interested in giving a justification for the social safety net found in liberal welfare states. Rawls describes the social net as the product of an agreement while Dworkin describes it as the product of an insurance market. Describe what you see as a significant advantage and a significant disadvantage of each model.
2. Dworkin is interested in giving an argument for socially guaranteed health insurance; he's interested in showing that society ought to provide care. Menzel is interested in giving an argument for rationing health care in the name of efficiency; he's interested in showing that society can legitimately withhold care. Despite their different aims, they rely on a similar question: what level of insurance would people buy in hypothetical circumstances? In Dworkin's case, we're supposed to imagine the decision about insurance occurs before one knows anything about one's health or income. In Menzel's case, we're supposed to imagine the decision takes place later. Those making it know whether they are rich or poor and whether they were born with any health problems but they do not know exactly what care they need later in life. What are the chief advantages and disadvantages of each approach?

