

Philosophy 3330 Spring 2021
Reading questions #13
Due Tue, April 20

Read Chapter 11 of Jacob Stegenga's *Care and Cure: An Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine* and then answer the following questions. Your answers should be uploaded in Blackboard.

1) Obviously, you want your diagnostic tests to be accurate, but no test is perfectly reliable. But some mistakes are worse than others. If you do a diagnostic test for a trait or disease, what do you think is worse, a false negative or a false positive? What about the following specific cases: a pregnancy test, a COVID test, whether a tumor is cancerous or not. In these three cases, are false negatives or false positives worse? Why?

2) Assume that an enhanced screening program (say routine mammograms for women in their 40s) will save some lives. Some people think that if this is true, it is then obvious that these screenings should be done. Some critics disagree – why? What reasons could be given against this kind of routine screening? What do you think – are the critics right?

3) After reading the chapter, try to come up with a question that you want answered or a topic that you would like to be discussed further. This could be something that the chapter forced you think about or it could be something that you thought was particularly confusing in the chapter.