Handouts:

I. DETERMINING MY ETHICAL PHILOSOPHY

FIRST Answer: SA for strongly agree, A for agree, D for disagree, SD for strongly disagree. SECOND: identify the philosophical theory.

1. No one knows what is right or wrong, good or bad. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. The only thing worth pursuing is pleasure. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Things of value in our society should go to those who can afford them as a result of their success in competing in our economic system. .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Moral judgments are a matter personal taste. Just as “Hot fudge sundaes are the best treat” is a statement of personal taste so is “Genocide is a morally evil”. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. All human beings have the same basic needs. All human beings therefore have the same moral rights. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. The only source of morality is God’s Ten Commandments. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Pleasure is a short term experience, but happiness is fairly stable and a long term condition. The only thing that is worth having in life is happiness. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. The only motive a person has in doing anything is to get something for her or himself. Even when they help others, it’s only because it makes them feel good. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Things of value should be distributed according to a person’s need and each person should contribute to society according to her abilities. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Some actions like murder are always wrong. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Some actions like giving money to the Red Cross are always right. . . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Some actions like euthanasia are always wrong. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. The best "HIT PERSON" in the Mafia could be happy. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. The most important thing in life is love. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. The most important thing in life is self-respect. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Some actions like keeping a promise are always right. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Always act to create the greatest good for the greatest number. .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. The most important thing in life is doing God’s will. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Only a morally good person could be happy. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

1. Pain and suffering are always bad. . .

PHILOSOPHICAL THEORY: .

II. Questions for students on *Gattaca* (1997)

1. The society that *Gattaca* portray has been described by some film critics as a *dystopia* (ill place). Do you agree with that description? Why or why not?

2. Did Vincent’s parents act responsibly in conceiving their second son, Anton? Why or why not?

3. Should he be the navigator on the voyage to Titan? Would you want to be on that mission knowing Vincent’s heart problems? Why or why not?

4. Is Vincent morally justified in his actions? Why or why not?

5. Would it be morally right to genetically alter people to have 6 fingers on each hand so that they could play the piano better? Why or why not?

6. Describe the aesthetics of the film- architecture, clothing, lighting, interior design, etc. What do they contribute to the film?

7. How has genetic information affected love and family in this society?

8. Jerome was so angry and depressed that he tried and eventually does commit suicide because of coming in second place in a race. Vincent’s brother, Anton, hates to be beaten at swimming by Vincent.

Does this indicate that genetically engineered individuals will experience greater mental suffering when they fail?

9. Is Lamar morally justified in helping Vincent? Why or why not?

10. What do you think is the most important question(s) raised in *Gattaca?* Does the film answer that question?