

PHI 330: Midterm Examination, Fall 2009

Instructions

Write well-developed, clear, organized answers to all the questions.

This is an exam that you complete outside of class. In completing the exam, you are free to refer to the readings and your notes, or to talk with other students about your answers. In fact, you are **encouraged** to work together with other students on this exam. But whatever you finally turn in **MUST** be your **OWN** writing, **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, expressing **YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING** at the time you wrote it.

Please limit yourself to 3000 words all together. (Word processing software generally can count the words for you.)

Each question counts equally. Submit answers printed on paper -- not electronically, and not hand-written. No fancy stuff like plastic covers, binders, elaborate cover sheets, money stuffed between pages, etc.

✚ DO NOT QUOTE OR CLOSELY PARAPHRASE ANYTHING WITHOUT CITING YOUR SOURCE. (Not even the textbook, or course materials.)

✚ DO NOT INCLUDE MORE THAN A FEW very BRIEF QUOTATIONS OF ANYTHING IN YOUR ENTIRE SET OF ANSWERS. Quotes are not required, and often just take up valuable space.

✚ THE ONLY GOOD REASON FOR QUOTING ANYTHING IS TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT A POINT YOU HAVE STATED IN YOUR OWN WORDS. **THE PENALTY FOR ILLEGITIMATE QUOTING IS "DEATH"**.

If you work with another student in preparing your answers, don't draft your actual answers together, and don't agree on exactly what examples you will use, or how you will express a particular point. When you work with someone, talk over the issues and share ideas, but don't do any outlining or writing together. Don't show your completed answer to someone else in order to help them; there are too many cases in which the helper ends up helping too much and then we have troubles.

Advice

The biggest problem with this kind of exam has been that students write answers that are too incomplete or sketchy. **Don't assume that the reader will "just know" what you're getting at.** Think of your audience as philosophically intelligent people who know nothing specific about this subject.

These questions can all be answered quite well simply by drawing ideas from our class discussions and the assigned readings. You are not expected to go out and find more sources. You are *not* prohibited from finding more sources.

Your answers are graded on how well they answer the question that is asked. Don't shoot yourself in the foot by going off on a tangent.

Questions

1. Explain Machina's reasoning for the claim that not all forms of morality make sense in a culture that does not utilize the standard concept of moral responsibility.
2. What is libertarianism with respect to moral responsibility? What introspective evidence is often claimed to support it? Explain why Ross thinks that the experimental evidence from the field of psychology has so far not indicated that libertarianism is false.
3. Summarize Kane's views regarding moral responsibility. Include an explanation for why his views picture humans as being wholly natural. Also include an explanation for why he believes the most serious issue the libertarian faces is how to deal with indeterminism.
4. Summarize O'Connor's views regarding moral responsibility. Include an explanation for why it might reasonably seem that on his account, human beings have supernatural powers. Also include an explanation of how O'Connor attempts to link a person's motivational structure to the free choices made by the person.
5. Summarize Fischer's views regarding moral responsibility. Include an explanation for how his views are different from standard compatibilism. Relate that explanation to his reaction to Kane's version of the Consequence Argument.