

Philosophy 1100 Honors – Introduction to Ethics

Final Examination Handout

Place: Hellems 196

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 20th.

Format of the Examination

1. The final examination will be a two and one-half hour, essay-type examination.
2. The examination will be a closed book examination.
3. You will be asked to answer **three questions**.
4. The examination will be divided into **three sections**. The first section will cover topics III, IV, V, and VI – Sexual Morality, Homosexuality, Pornography, and Prostitution. The second section will cover topic VII – Suicide and Euthanasia. The final section will then cover topics VIII, IX, and X – the Moral Status of Animals, Human Cloning, and Abortion.
5. You must answer **one question** from **each section**.
6. There will be **no** questions on topics I and II.
7. There will be **no** questions on the initial material that dealt with various techniques of critical thinking.
8. There will be questions on **all** of the other topics.
9. The examination will contain **at least 12 questions**, with **at least 4 questions in each section**.
10. The questions will focus mainly upon **issues**, rather than upon detailed knowledge of specific articles. You should, however, have a good grasp of articles that were discussed in lectures or in recitations.
11. The examination questions will be very similar in style to the essay topics.
12. **All** of the questions on the examination will be chosen from the list of possible questions found in the document “Final Examination – List of Possible Questions”. For more details on that matter, please take a very close look at that document.

Structuring Your Answers

In answering the examination questions, the crucial things to keep in mind are those that were stressed in connection with your essays, namely:

- (1) Try to ensure that your answers have a **good, clear, logical structure**. (A concise introductory paragraph that provides the reader with an overview of the organization of your answer, along with a division of your answer into separate sections with informative headings, will usually be very helpful in this regard.)
- (2) Try to offer **good reasons** for thinking that the basic claims that you are advancing are true, and also for thinking that important claims that you are rejecting are false.
- (3) Another crucial feature is a consideration of **the most important objection** (or objections) that might be advanced **both** against **any argument** that you're advancing, **and** also against any **controversial claim** that you're advancing – where a claim is controversial if a thoughtful and informed person might very well disagree with it. (It is especially important to consider objections to any controversial claims involved in the **arguments** that you offer in support of your own views.)

Reviewing Material for the Examination

What is a good way to prepare for the final examination? One approach is as follows:

- (1) It's important to see the big picture, and to have an overview of the fundamental issues and the different positions that one might take concerning the moral issues that arise in a given area. So in reviewing the material for a particular section of the course, you might find it good to start by looking over the relevant "Overview" material on the web site for this course (<http://spot.Colorado.EDU/~tooley/Philosophy1100.html>).
- (2) Next, you should review your lecture notes and class handouts. (For the topics of euthanasia and abortion, my lecture notes are on the web.)
- (3) Finally, look over articles, or parts of articles, that you found especially helpful.

Blue Books

Since the University does not supply students with blue books for examinations, please remember to bring along a blue book.