

FINAL EXAM PREVIEW

The exam will be held from 10:30-12:30 on Thursday, 8 December in the room where lectures are held. Please bring blue books.

The exam has two parts. In the first, you will be asked to choose *two* out of four passages. For these two passages, you will be asked to identify the author of the passage (the names will not be given), describe what the author is saying, and explain how the passage is related to the broader theory or argument that the author is advancing. The passages will be drawn from the readings we have done since the mid-term, that is, from Cranston through Gewirth.

In the second part, you will be asked to write an essay on *one* of the following three topics. Please do not use notes. If a topic is redundant with the paper you wrote, please address a different one.

1. Human rights are thought to be claim rights, that is, rights with corresponding duties, but there are questions about the duties corresponding to some of the rights in the UDHR. For example:
 - a. Should we always respect rights, no matter what the consequences?
 - b. If the duties corresponding to rights are understood as side constraints, does it follow that there are no social and economic rights?
 - c. Is there an important difference between positive and negative rights?

Explain the issue behind *one* of these questions (a, b, or c). How might someone try to answer it? What do you think the answer is?

2. Most people taking this class believe in human rights, roughly as they are articulated in the UDHR. But it seems evident that the reason why we have those beliefs concerns our upbringing; some people who were brought up in different cultures disagree with us about human rights. How should we respond to cultural diversity when thinking about our belief in human rights? Compare Waldron's way of responding to diversity with the one in American Anthropological Association's 1947 Statement. Describe the central idea of each response, emphasizing their differences. What do you think the appropriate response is?
3. How does Gewirth attempt to justify human rights? Explain *one* objection to his argument that you find compelling. How might Gewirth respond to this objection? What do you think: is the objection successful or not?