

FINAL EXAM: STUDY TOPICS

The exam will be held on Tuesday, 6 June from 10:30-12:30 in Pick 16. Please bring blue books.

Feel free to study with others and to ask us as many questions as you wish. Your work on the exam should be your own: we cannot accept two identical answers. Why take a philosophy class just to finish with someone else's opinions? Please do not use any notes during the exam itself.

You will be given *six* short passages from the readings that will correspond to some of these topics. For *four* of these six passages, you will be asked to do four things.

(1) *Identify* the author. Who wrote it? (2) *Explain* what the passage says. Be as literal as you can while using your own words. (3) *Describe* what the author was doing. This usually involves choosing an appropriate verb phrase: raising an objection, summarizing a position, stating a principle, posing a question, giving an example, and so on. (4) *Evaluate* the passage's significance. Why does it matter? For instance, a passage may be significant because of its relationship with other positions that the author holds. It may support one of the author's positions. Or it may give rise to an objection that the author had not apparently thought of.

You should plan on taking twenty minutes for each passage.

1. The drowning child
2. The weak and strong versions of Singer's principle
3. Cohen's criticisms of Singer: incentives, responsibility, fairness
4. Ethical hedonism
5. The utilitarian principle
6. Pleasure and competent judges
7. Pleasure and higher faculties
8. Utilitarianism and customary morality
9. The violinist
10. The voluntariness objection
11. Good and minimally decent samaritanism
12. Genetic vs. moral sense of "human"
13. Abortion and infanticide
14. The burning cat and moral observations
15. Euthyphro's problem
16. The amoralist
17. Formulations of subjectivism: linguistic, epistemological, metaphysical
18. The anthropologists on human rights
19. The anthropologists' loophole
20. Arguments from the truth of relativism to tolerance
21. Waldron's criticism of relativism
22. Defusing subjectivism
23. Subjectivism and indifference
24. The mid-air position
25. Subjectivism and certainty