

Exam Preview

The final exam will be held on Thursday, May 15 at 2pm.

The exam has two parts. I think that each part should take about forty minutes to complete. I generally allow two hours for the exam. That is about one and a half times as long as I think you need.

In the first part of the exam you will be asked to choose *two* out of four passages. For these two passages, you will be asked to do what you did in the short test that you took in February: identify the author of the passage (the names will not be given), describe what the author is saying, and evaluate the passage's significance by showing how it is related to the broader theory or argument that the author advanced. The passages will be drawn from the readings we have done throughout the course.

In the second part, you will be asked to write an essay on one of the following topics. Please do not use notes.

1. Our society punishes attempted crimes as well as successful ones, though typically less often and with less severity. Describe an important question about, or problem with, our practices of punishing attempts. Then explain how you think the question or problem ought to be handled.
2. Warren and Brandeis think there is a moral right to privacy; they claim to find protections of this right in various places in the law. Thomson and Posner disagree with them about the significance of the right to privacy: Thomson thinks it is derivative from other rights and Posner casts doubt on its value. Give the best case for thinking that there is an independent, valuable right of privacy. Then give the best case for the other side. What do you think: is there a significant right to privacy or not?

