

Midterm exam

PHIL 10106
in class, October 17

The midterm exam will consist of four questions from the following list. In the exam, you will answer three of the four.

Please note: the purpose of the exam (as with every assignment for the course) is to explain and defend the views on these topics you have developed over the course of the semester. So your answer to one question on the exam should not be inconsistent with your answer to another question, as that would show that the views you have developed are inconsistent with each other!

1. Explain the first cause argument for the existence of God. Should an agnostic be convinced by this argument that God exists? Why or why not?
2. Explain the cosmological argument for the existence of God. Should an agnostic be convinced by this argument that God exists? Why or why not?
3. Explain the fine-tuning argument for the existence of God. Should an agnostic be convinced by this argument that God exists? Why or why not?
4. Explain the argument from the existence of some evil in the world. Should an agnostic be convinced by this argument that God does not exist? Why or why not?
5. Does the existence of free will explain why a perfectly good and omnipotent being would allow some evil to exist in the world? Why or why not?
6. What kind of evil presents the strongest challenge for the believer in God? Should an agnostic be convinced by the existence of that kind of evil that God does not exist? Why or why not?
7. What is the strongest argument in favor of your having free will? Is the argument convincing? Why or why not?
8. Is free will compatible with determinism? Why or why not?
9. Explain the fatalist argument against free will. Is the argument sound? Why or why not?

10. Explain the foreknowledge argument against free will. Is the argument sound? Why or why not?
11. Do Libet's experiments show that humans have, at best, a very limited kind of free will? Why or why not?