

Midterm exam study guide

PHIL 10106

September 24

On the midterm exam, you will be asked to defend two of your answers to the “My Philosophy” questions. In each case, you will be asked to (a) argue for your answer and (b) respond to an objection to that answer which will be listed on the exam.

So, for example, one question might look like this:

(1a) Is the principle of sufficient reason true? Defend your answer.

(1b) If you responded “yes,” respond to the following objection:

If you responded “no,” reply to the following objection:

The exam will include three questions of this kind. You should pick two to answer.

All of the objections in the (b) sections will be ones we have discussed in class.

The exam will be distributed by email at the start of the class time on Thursday, 9/24 (12:45). You should email your answers back to your TA (in a Word document or some other easily accessible document format) by the end of class on that day (2:00). So you will have 75 minutes to complete the exam.

If you wish to come to the classroom to complete the exam, you may — that is entirely up to you.

You may look at your “My Philosophy” answers when working on the exam, but may not use course notes or any other course or outside materials.

You may not change your answers to “My Philosophy” questions when doing the exam. Part of what the exam is testing is whether you have put sufficient thought into your views to be able to argue for them and defend them against objections.

Your answers to the question should be consistent with each other. So if you answer questions (1) and (2), you should not say anything in your answer to (2) which contradicts anything in your answer to (1). (If you do, that would show that you have not thought enough about whether your answers fit into a coherent philosophy.)