

Midterm exam guide

Your midterm exam is due by the end of day on March 23. There is no class that day. The exam will consist of your My Philosophy answers so far.

To hand in your My Philosophy page, follow these steps:

- (1) click on the button on the right hand side that says "printable version;"
- (2) click command-P to print the page;
- (3) when the print dialogue comes up, chose the option "save to PDF;"
- (4) email the PDF to your TA.

The PDF will have your netID on the front page. The above procedure works on both Chrome and Safari; it does not work on Firefox. If you have trouble getting it to work, just let me know.

Here are some guidelines to help you complete this assignment well:

- As with your papers, the aim should be (i) clarity and (ii) strong arguments. You will be evaluated on how clearly you explain your views and how well you defend them.
- An excellent answer does not have to be long. Use as many words as needed to answer the question, and no more.
- Use simple, clear language whenever possible.
- As with your papers, your aim in defending your views should be to occasionally go beyond the material discussed in class. That does not mean that every answer must be original; but, ideally, some should go beyond class material. That can take the form of a new example which either supports or counts against a premise, or a new argument for or against some view.
- You should not use any outside sources. If you do get any ideas from outside sources, you must put together a bibliography containing every source used, and email that to your TA along with the My Philosophy answers. Failure to do this is a violation of the Honor Code.
- Be sure to answer every question which is visible. Make sure that you also check the 'Puzzles' page, as there may be some questions for you there.
- Your aim is to develop a consistent view which you are able to defend. So, your view should not generate any contradictions. If you do not think that your view

- is contradictory but the web site thinks it is, send me an email! I am willing to be convinced, and I want to make room for everyone to develop their own views.
- Philosophy is hard. You may find two arguments individually plausible even though they support contradictory views, and it may be very hard to decide which argument you think is better. That is fine. In that kind of case, don't pretend to be more sure than you are. You can even say things like 'I am very unsure whether X or Y is true. I am tempted to believe X because of consideration A. But in the end I think that Y is somewhat more likely to be true because of B.' That is a sign of someone who has understood both sides of an issue and tried to think it through to discover the truth!
 - If you find yourself changing your answers to prior questions, that is perfectly fine; that is a sign that you are thinking through the connections between these issues.

Above all, if you have any questions, get in touch. The best way to do that is to post something in the 'ask a prof' channel on Slack, so that all can see the answer.