

Additional office hours/ study sessions

- **John Dougherty:** Monday, 16 March, 12 to 2pm.
- **Kyle Sereda:** Tuesday, 17 March, from 3 to 4pm, and Wednesday, 18 March, from 3 to 4pm.
- **Chris Wüthrich:** Tuesday, 17 March, 1pm to 3pm.

Instructions

Please bring a bluebook or two and a couple of pens. The blue books have to be complete and not contain any marks, notes, or names. Please also bring your student ID. You will not be allowed to talk, use any books or notes, or listen to your iPod. The exam is **closed books** and **cumulative**. The latter means that in principle, all of the material of the course will be tested. Having said that, however, I anticipate that there will be an emphasis on the post-midterm material.

The topics and issues below give you a list of material that we either went over in class or that was in the readings or both. Study them carefully. The final exam will consist of three parts. The first part will be ten or so **short identification questions**. You will be asked to identify a term or phrase with a short sentence or two. The second will consist of five or so **short-answer questions** where I expect a paragraph or so as answer (as in the midterm). As in the midterm, you will get a choice for some of the questions of this second part. In the third part, you will find two **essay questions** which will require a thoughtful and careful argument where you will bring to bear all the relevant material from class.

Above all, make sure to read the instructions carefully; some students have lost valuable points for simply not following instructions.

God

- deductive arguments in general (in particular: validity and soundness)
- a priori vs. a posteriori
- Avicenna's metaphysics: modality
- Avicenna's proof for the existence of God and objections to it
- Aquinas's argument from motion
- first cause argument
- Aquinas's third way: contingency and Hume's criticism
- Anselm's ontological proof
- Gaunilon's perfect island

- Rowe's objection to Anselm's proof
- inductive arguments in general
- design argument and Hume's criticism
- fine-tuning argument
- natural and human evil
- argument from evil, the problem of evil
- responses and their discussion (in particular Leibniz, Voltaire, free will, Mackie, soul-making)
- the problem of good
- logical vs. evidential problem of evil

Causation and Laws of Nature

- the problem of causation
- John Snow and the great cholera epidemics of 1848-9 and 1853-4
- correlation and causation
- rationalism and rationalist conception of causation
- Hume's critique of rationalist conception
- Hume's positive accounts (there are two in fact; in connection with this study contiguity, priority in time, constant conjunction, causation as habits of association, regularity, projectivism)
- criticisms of Hume's theory (in particular, but not exclusively, by Venn and Ducasse)
- Ducasse's analysis of causation and its problems
- observation and optical illusions (look particularly at penetrated vs. non-penetrated distinction)
- Michotte's experiments
- laws of nature: accidental generalizations vs. laws of nature
- counterfactual support as indicative of lawhood
- thought experiments: X -particles and Y -fields
- Humean response to this thought experiment

Mind

- organic and mechanical world view
- the trouble with minds (consciousness, subjectivity, intentionality, incorrigibility)
- the mind-body problem
- monism vs. dualism, Taylor's classification
- Descartes's interactionism
- property argument for dualism (cf. Churchland)
- knowledge argument for dualism
- arguments against dualism (cf. Churchland)
- philosophical behaviourism and its problems
- identity theory
- tokens and types
- functionalism
- inverted spectrum argument against functionalism and responses to it
- imitation game and Turing test
- syntax and semantics
- theses of strong and weak AI
- Searle's Chinese room argument
- replies to the Chinese room (systems, robot, brain simulator, combination, other minds)
- the Churchlands' argument against the Chinese room

Personal identity

- qualitative vs. numerical identity
- the soul answer (and responses to it)
- (refined) spatiotemporal continuity and the prince and the cobbler
- psychological continuity and the case of Guy Fawkes
- duplication problem for both continuity views
- Dennett: the self as the center of narrative gravity
- multiple personality disorder

Fatalism

- statement of the fatalist creed (and clarifications)
- motivations of LEM: God's foreknowledge and tenseless time
- Aristotle's version of a fatalist argument (the sea battle one)
- law of the excluded middle (LEM)
- responses: deny LEM, Sobel's analysis of a fatalist argument

Free will

- the basic tension between determinism and free will
- basic options in the debate: compatibilism ('soft determinism'), hard determinism, libertarianism, scepticism
- determinism (my characterization and Sider's)
- Ayer's compatibilism
- Frankfurt's alternative compatibilism (incl. Principle of Alternate Possibilities)
- Does indeterminism save free will?
- Chisholm's libertarianism (and agent causation)
- Libet experiment and its interpretation
- Bereitschaftspotential (readiness potential)

Time

- the main problem
- the basic opposition: the static and dynamic views of time
- tenseless time, the tenseless theory
- dimensions, spacetime
- A- and B-properties
- objections to the tenseless theory (change, motion, causes, asymmetry)
- tensed time
- presentism
- objections to tensed views (depending on how far we get: McTaggart's paradox, Smart/Broad's 'how fast...?', special relativity's 'no-go' theorem, epistemic)

Time travel

- definition of time travel
- paradoxes: grandfather, predestination, ontological
- resolutions of the predestination and ontological paradoxes
- resolution of the grandfather: multiverse and consistency constraints
- Lewis's modal inconsistency
- metaphysical concern: backward causation
- Does physics permit time travel?
- concept of a closed causal curve