

Final Exam Study Guide

HMXP102

Fall, 2011

Our final exam will consist of three parts, totaling 200 points. Part One (40 points) will include a number of true-false or multiple choice questions concerning basic concepts advanced over the course of the semester. Part Two (55 points) will be a “matching” exercise, in which you identify the authors of quotations from our readings. Part Three (100 points) will ask you to compose an essay in response to the question “Who Am I?” (You get 5 “free” points for writing your name on the exam.)

In order to prepare yourself for Parts One and Two, you should review the assigned readings of the course. Examples of questions you might face in Part One are,

1. True or false: Socrates believed that recognizing our ignorance is an important component of human wisdom.
2. True or false: John Stuart Mill asserts that minority opinions, like those of the majority, should be expressed publicly only with appropriate respect and decorum.

For Part Three, prepare to write an in-class essay responding to the question “Who/What Am I?” The purpose of this essay is to demonstrate your ability to integrate a variety of complex ideas into a unified, intelligent account of yourself as a living human being. In this essay, you must make reference to at least THREE of our course readings, at least TWO of which must be from different sections of the course.

For this portion of the exam, please bear in mind the following:

- You WILL have access to your texts and to ONE SHEET of notes. (You will NOT have access to either of these during Parts One and Two of the exam.)
- PLUS – you may use your notes from *Apocalypse Now* – if you choose to include reference to it in your essay.
- Your essay should have a *single THESIS* – i.e., a *single* statement about what it is to be “you”, which thesis you then elaborate and support by reference to the materials of the course.
- Your essay should reveal to the reader something *interesting* about the nature of human experience, as exemplified in your own experience. You need not argue for the *truth* of your claims as much as *describe* what it is like to be you. (You needn’t be overly “personal”; the essay is, after all, in the public eye.)
- You should *ground* general ideas in *particular* instances, events, actions, etc.
- And you *will* be responsible for the accurate representation of your authors’ ideas. Plan to spend some time explaining in detail the materials you use, since it will be these that give substance to your discussion.
- Bring a Blue-book or paper on which to write. No scantron form is needed.

Exam: 11:30am-2:00pm, Monday, Dec. 12.