Final Exam Study Guide for

PHIL 1000: Intro to Philosophy

**Logistics:**

1. The final exam will be in our normal classroom. (Check mycuinfo for time and date.)
2. Needed materials: a writing utensil (plus a backup pen or pencil!) You also might wish to bring a watch because the use of cell phones is **not** allowed.

**You should:**

1. Know the material covered before the mid-term. (See the mid-term study guide for more information).
2. Be familiar with the **Euthyphro Dilemma**and the consequences for each “horn”. Understand the theory that God is the source of morality (**Divine Command Theory**), its strengths (arguments for it) and weaknesses (objections to it), as well as the problems with the second horn of the dilemma.
3. Understand the theory of **Ethical Egoism**, how it differs from Psychological Egoism, as well as its strengths (arguments for it) and weaknesses (objections to it).
4. Understand the theory of **Cultural Relativism**, as well as its strengths and weaknesses (objections).
5. Understand each of the following major theories of normative ethics, as well as its strengths (arguments for it) and weaknesses (the objections against it).
	1. **Utilitarianism**:
		1. The three components (*Hedonism, Consequentialism, Impartiality)*
		2. Strengths/Arguments for Utilitarianism
		3. Weaknesses/Objections to Utilitarianism (including objections targeted at each of the three components)
		4. Utilitarian responses to these objections
		5. Also, know the difference between *intrinsic vs instrumental value* and the difference between *higher and lower pleasures.* By now, you should also be able to figure out what a Utilitarian will say about a given ethical situation, and how they would approach making the calculation.
	2. **Kantian Deontology**:
		1. Hypothetical Imperatives vs. Categorical Imperatives
		2. Know both formulations of the Categorical Imperative (treat people as ends-in-themselves, and act according to universalizable maxims), what each one means, and how Kant thinks they should be applied to derive our moral duties.
		3. Strengths and Weaknesses/Objections
	3. **Virtue Ethics**:
		1. Know what a virtue is (and be able to name several of them)
		2. Understand how Virtue Ethics aims to provide a different kind of theory from the other major theories (by answering a different set of questions).
6. By now, you should be able to compare and contrast the views of **Utilitarians, Deontologists, and Virtue Ethicists** and you should be able to figure out what an adherent of each of these normative theories would say about a given ethical situation.
7. Know **Singer’s** argument that we are morally required to donate to the poor, how he supports the premises, as well as the common objections to his claims. Also, understand whether these objections express factors that are *morally* relevant, or merely *psychologically* relevant (as well as what the difference is between these categories).
8. Understand **Taylor’s** view on the Meaning of life, and how he employs the Myth of Sisyphus to describe it.
9. Understand why **Nagel** thinks life is absurd, what he thinks about the usual arguments for both the absurdity of life and attempts to “solve” it (e.g. why appeals to God, country, etc. fail), and how he thinks we ought to cope with the absurd.