Mid-term Study Guide for

PHIL 1000: Intro to Philosophy

**Logistics:**

1. The exam will be during our normal class time, in our normal classroom. Please be on time.
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 three main branches of philosophy (Epistemology, Metaphysics, and Values/Ethics), and what types of questions they seek to address.
2. Know the two purposes/uses of logic. Know the definitions for, and the difference between, *deductive* arguments (which are *valid/invalid* and *sound/unsound)* and *inductive* arguments (which are *strong/weak* and *cogent/uncogent)*. Also, know and understand the definitions for: *arguments*, *premises*, *conclusions*, and s*tatements.*
3. Be able to identify, reconstruct, and evaluate arguments (for validity, soundness, etc). Also know the “Principle of Charity.”
4. Know the *informal fallacies* we covered, and be able to identify examples of them.
5. Know the “Is/Ought” distinction and the difference between *descriptive* *statements* and *normative statements.*
6. Understand the philosophical process of *conceptual analysis*, whereby we try to identify the *necessary and sufficient conditions* for something (“x is a chair iff \_\_\_\_\_\_”).
7. Understand the concept of absolute, *objective truth*, and the argument we discussed in class against the idea that all truth is relative.
8. Know the difference between *necessary truths* and *contingent truths*, as well as *a priori* reasoning and *a posteriori* reasoning.
9. Know the difference between *intrinsic value* and *instrumental value.*
10. Understand the differences and relationships between: beliefs, knowledge, and truth, as well as the *Justified True Belief* theory of knowledge, and how *Gettier*-style counter-examples work. Also know the five sources of justification we discussed.
11. Be familiar with Descartes’ epistemic project, specifically his *method of doubt,* how it relates to *Skepticism* and the challenge it poses to knowledge, his *Foundationalist* solution (and how it draws on the *Cogito*, or perhaps phenomenal states, etc.)
12. Know the difference between *Particularism* and *Methodism* in Epistemology.
13. Know the arguments for God’s existence: Argument from **Scripture**, **Ontological** Argument, **Cosmological** Argument, both versions of the **Teleological** Argument (Intelligent Design and Fine-Tuning), and **Pascal’s Wager**. Know the objections/responses to each.
14. Know the arguments against God’s existence: Argument from **Religious Pluralism**, and the **Problem of Evil**. For the Problem of Evil, know the objections we discussed, and how an Atheist might counter-respond.
15. Freewill: Understand the theories of *Determinism*, *Libertarianism*, and *Compatibilism* as well as the arguments for, and objections to, each. (If we get to this material in class…)