

## IPFA09 - Midterm exam

On the day of the exam, I will pick 4 of the following questions. You will have 75 minutes to write a response to 3 of those 4. There may also be a question requiring you to briefly define the terms ‘validity’ and ‘soundness’.

- (1) In our exploration of liberal political philosophy, we encountered two approaches. John Rawls represented one of these approaches, and Robert Nozick represented the other. Compare and contrast these two approaches: explain how they are similar to each other, and how they are different. Are they compatible, or not?
- (2) Rawls says that his ‘justice as fairness’ is a development of “the familiar theory of the social contract”. Explain the basic ‘parts’ of a social contract theory, and identify the corresponding ‘parts’ of justice as fairness. How does Rawls modify social contract theory in justice as fairness?
- (3) One serious problem we found with Charles Taylor’s paper ‘Atomism’ was the absence of a list of valuable human capacities. Suppose Taylor turned to one of the philosophers we read during the first couple weeks of class, when we covered the different conceptions of the good life. Pick two of these philosophers. What items would each put on her or his list of valuable human capacities? Where would these two lists overlap, and where would they disagree? Is this kind of approach a viable way for Taylor to solve this problem?
- (4) David Wong claims that his version of meta-ethical relativism better explains the deep differences in ethical beliefs among different cultures than universalism. What is his explanation of these differences? Is his claim correct?
- (5) In what we called the ‘exploitation argument’, Karl Marx claims that ‘If workers have no choice but to sell the surplus value of their labor to capitalists, then they are exploited.’ Is this claim compatible with Nozick’s claim, in his Entitlement Theory, that all voluntary transfers are just? Explain both claims, and then give reasons supporting a yes or no answer to this question.