

PHILO 25000: PROBLEMS OF ETHICS AND SOCIETY | SPRING 2019

FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

This is an **in-class, closed-book** exam. It will take place on **May 21st, 2019, 9:00–11:00AM**.

Answer any **two** (and only two) questions.

Your answers should be in the form of concise, clearly written essays. There is no specific length requirement, but you should not need more than one blue book per answer, and those with small handwriting should be able to fit both answers in a single book.

QUESTIONS

1. Some have argued that the gender pay gap is not unjust because it arises from men's and women's different preferences about their careers and family. Others have objected that this argument does not account for the fact that men's and women's preferences are themselves shaped by a range of cultural forces, and that this shaping process may itself be unjust. Explain this debate. Make sure to explain what an adaptive preference is, and give some concrete examples.
2. Carens argues that none of the major contemporary moral or political philosophies can be used to justify strict restrictions on immigration, such as the current system in the United States. Explain his argument.
3. Some libertarians believe that we do not have any positive moral rights. Are they right? Justify your answer. Use examples. Make sure to explain what rights are, and what it is for them to be positive and moral rights.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- **Answer the Question:** The whole thing, and nothing else!
- **Clarity:** it should be easy for the reader to understand what point is being made at all times. This means writing well, but also structuring your essay carefully so that it's obvious how each thing that you say fits with your overall aims.
- **Persuasiveness:** When you make an argument for some philosophical or interpretive claim, it should be a rationally persuasive one, even to someone who wouldn't otherwise agree with your claim.
- **Accuracy:** If you're discussing other people's ideas—including those in the readings—you should show that you understand them properly.