

## Midterm Review Study Guide – Philosophy II-III and III-IV

The exam will take place 3rd period Tuesday 1/4 for II-III, and 5th period Tuesday 1/4 for III-IV. It will make up about 20% of your semester grade. The midterm will consist of 10 short answer questions, and you'll have to answer 7 of them. The questions will require you to draw comparisons and make contrasts among selections from the texts we read this semester. The exam is interpretive, not factual. It will provide you with all the texts you'll need. I'll ask you about the following selections:

### 1. Divinity

The goddess [Athena] standing behind Peleus' son [Achilles] caught him by the fair hair, appearing to him only . . . .

[T]he goddess grey-eyed Athene spoke to him:

“I have come down to stay your anger – but will you obey me? . . . .”

“Goddess, it is necessary that I obey . . . .  
angry though I am in my heart.”

– Homer, *The Iliad*

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said . . . .

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding . . . .

Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee . . . .

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in ashes.

– *The Book of Job*

### 2. The Cosmos

Opposites cooperate.

– Heraclitus, Fragment 26

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

– Isaac Newton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Law of Motion

### 3. Good Government

Justice is contention.

– Heraclitus, Fragment 26

[I]t is necessary for a prince . . . to know how to do wrong, and to make use of it or not according to necessity.

– Machiavelli, *The Prince*

In order that the social contract may not be a mere empty formula, everyone must understand that any individual who refuses to obey the general will must be forced by his fellows to do so.

– Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

### 4. The Body

Asia and Europe . . . differ from one another, and . . . the inhabitants . . . are different, and do not at all resemble one another . . . . The cause of this is the temperature of the seasons . . . .

– Hippocrates

Viewed from within, no part of the animal is a useless or arbitrary product . . . . Externally, some parts may seem useless because the inner coherence of the animal nature has given them this form without regard to outer circumstance. Thus . . . [not] the question, What are they for? but rather, Where do they come from?

– Goethe

### 5. Pleasure

I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and behold, this also is vanity.

I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?

– *Ecclesiastes*

No pleasure is in itself evil, but the things which produce certain pleasures entail annoyances many times greater than the pleasures themselves.

– Epicurus

There cannot be too much merriment, but it is always good; but, on the other hand, melancholy is always bad.

– Spinoza

## 6. The City

Do What Thou Wilt

– Rabelais, *Gargantua* (over the Abbey of Thélème door)

Let's set off in search of our ladies . . . .

– Christine de Pizan, *Book of the City of Ladies* (Dame Reason, speaking to Christine)

## 7. Time

Neither god nor human made this word, which is always the same for all people: it has always been, it is, and always will be: an everlasting fire rhythmically dying and flaring up again.

– Heraclitus, Fragment 29

All nations proceed through the same sequence of human institutions . . . . First, they are ruled by aristocracies, next by free democracies, and finally by monarchies.

– Vico, *New Science*

## 8. Divinity

if cattle or horses or lions had hands and could draw,  
and could sculpture like people, then the horses would draw their gods  
like horses, and cattle like cattle; they would each shape  
bodies of gods in the likeness of their own kind.

– Xenophanes

If there is a God, He is infinitely incomprehensible . . . . We are . . . incapable of knowing either what He is or if He is . . . .

– Pascal, *Thoughts*

## 9. Beauty

The most beautiful order in the world is still a random gathering of things insignificant in themselves.

– Heraclitus, Fragment 40

Beauty is at once our state and our act.

– Schiller

## 10. Divinity

Concerning the gods, I have no way of knowing whether they exist or not or of what sort they may be, because of the obscurity of the subject and the brevity of human life.

– Protagoras

If there is a God, He is infinitely incomprehensible . . . . We are . . . incapable of knowing either what He is or if He is . . . .

– Pascal, *Thoughts*

We must persuade our citizens that the gods are the lords and rulers of all things . . . . For surely minds which are imbued with such ideas cannot fail to form true and useful opinions.

– Cicero, *Laws*