

Final Exam

Please read the following instructions very carefully. Contact me right away if you have any questions about what the exam is asking you to do.

The final exam consists of three parts.

Part I, which is worth 30 points, contains 10 multiple choice questions.

In the message field of an email, list numbers 1-10. Next to each number, type the letter that provides the *best* response to that particular question. Please type the letter only.

Parts II and III are each worth 35 points and require you to write essays similar to the ones you've been posting throughout the term in your discussion board submissions (though your essays for this exam will be somewhat longer). Read each question carefully and be sure to respond completely and thoroughly. Pay careful attention to writing mechanics and the other elements of composition I've been noting in my comments and critiques of your earlier work.

Make use of all the resources the course has to offer. These include not just textbook assignments, but also the material in Reflections, Links and Video that are posted on the course web site. Review as well the discussion board conversations we've been engaging in during the past few months, along with the comments and critiques that you have received from me on your submissions. The more references you make to these resources, the greater depth and substance your essays will have.

You are to email your exam directly to me (packerm@uscupstate.edu). As indicated above, the responses to Part I will be listed in the message field of your email. Both of your essays are to be attached to your email as a single Word document (not two). Please don't submit anything in Google docs or similar kinds of programs that would require anything more than a single click to open.

All exams are due no later than Friday, April 30th at 12:00 p.m. I cannot accept any late submissions without a properly authorized excuse.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Part I.

(30 points)

Select the best answer for each of the following questions.

1. Utilitarianism measures the moral worth of an action entirely by its
 - a) motive
 - b) consistency with the laws of nature
 - c) legal implications
 - d) consequences in promoting the greatest possible benefits

2. Kantianism measures the moral worth of an action in part by examining its
 - a) respect for the dignity of persons
 - b) consistency with the laws of nature
 - c) legal implications
 - d) consequences

3. How would a Kantian justify informed consent in a medical context?
 - a) It is required by the law
 - b) It has become a customary protocol for medical practice
 - c) Medical professionals owe patients respect for their autonomy
 - d) All of the above

4. A Utilitarian would most likely assess a medical law or policy
 - a) By using cost/benefit analysis
 - b) With reference to existing legal tradition
 - c) By appealing to the natural boundaries of human knowledge
 - d) With reference to the dignity and autonomy of the individuals affected

5. A Utilitarian might object to the use of animals in biomedical research if
 - a) We regard human beings as superior in moral insight to other species and thus bearing responsibility for their welfare
 - b) We see animals as part of God's creation
 - c) Animal suffering is taken into moral consideration when we calculate harms and benefits
 - d) We disregard the benefits that animal-based research has for humanity

6. Kantians may be sympathetic to physician assisted suicide because
 - a) They respect the autonomy of patients
 - b) They want to reduce the costs of extended medical care for the terminally ill
 - c) The needs of society as a whole must be taken into consideration
 - d) They recognize that all of us must eventually die

7. Some Utilitarians may oppose physician assisted suicide because
 - a) It violates their understanding of biblical law
 - b) It's contrary to nature
 - c) Assisted suicide is too awful for most people to contemplate
 - d) The practice could lead to such abuses as killing those who are depressed but not suffering from a terminal illness

8. Which of the following are the defining values of the Belmont Report's recommendations?
 - a) Justice, Respect, Beneficence
 - b) Respect, Autonomy, Dignity
 - c) Happiness, Benefits, Positive Outcomes
 - d) None of the Above

9. Suggesting that the economy be re-opened sooner for the benefit of the majority of people, even if that means more covid deaths for a minority of people, might be an argument put forward by:
 - a) The Belmont Report
 - b) Utilitarians
 - c) Kantians
 - d) Oliver Sacks

10. Requiring informed consent from patients before participating in medical experiments, even if such protocols were to slow the speed and efficiency of medical research, might be a position put forward by:
 - a) Kantians
 - b) Utilitarians
 - c) Mary Shelly
 - d) All of the above

Part II

(35 points)

Respond to all three the following questions in a single essay consisting of approximately 450 words.

- a. What are the themes of Romanticism that we find in both *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, and *Frankenstein*?
- b. What is the Romantic critique of science that we find in the work of Oliver Sacks and Mary Shelley? Discuss why both of them believe that a purely scientific approach to humanity and/or the natural world is limited, even dangerous.
- c. Do you agree with their critiques of science and their alternative approaches to understanding the human condition? Explain.

Part III

(35 points)

Review the article “The Brain Implants that Could Change Humanity” from the New York Times that is posted in Links, under “Brain Reading.”

In an essay of approximately 400 words, discuss what you think Mary Shelley would probably advise us to think about in regard to the scientific breakthroughs described in this article. Be sure to discuss the positive aspects of this research as well as what you think her criticisms might be. Do you agree with what you believe Shelley might say on this subject? (Bear in mind she was not a Luddite, that is, someone who is reflexively opposed to advances in science and technology.)

In your essay, don’t forget to make specific references to the plot and themes of *Frankenstein*. References to Oliver Sacks and other assigned course material would certainly be welcome.

