

PHILOSOPHY OF CULTURE

Final exam – January 2023

Read these instructions carefully:

- Write short, independently readable texts/essays:
 - o Use whole sentences and paragraphs
 - o Avoid telegram-style or lists such as this one
 - o Draw a clear conclusion
 - o Explain difficult or ambiguous terms
 - o Spell correctly
- When quoting, always make sure that:
 - a) quotes only supplement but never substitute your own explanation
 - b) quotes always come with quotation marks and a very clear reference to the source! (You do not have to strictly follow academic conventions for referring. An indication in parentheses will suffice.)
- At the top of each page, write the following:
 - o "Your name (your student number); philosophy of culture final 2023"
 - Example: "Johan de Jong (s123456); philosophy of culture final 2023".
- Upload two files (there are two separate upload-links on Brightspace):
 - o One file for answers to questions 1 and 2 (each 250 words), on 1 page
 - o One file for answer to question 3 (500 words) on 1 page
- Using more words than indicated is permitted: if you have learned a lot and want to show me, then I will encourage this. However: make your extra words count. If extra words are not relevant or do not contribute to your answer, points may be deducted.
- Grades for the three questions are weighted as follows: 1 (30%); 2 (30%); 3 (40%).

Answer the following two questions in approx. 250 words per question (fit them together on 1 page):

1. For Marx, culture functions ideologically. This meant, among other things, that dominant ideas in society conceal violence. Explain how this is so for Marx.
2. Explain why, according to Freud, the individual must suffer for culture to be useful.

Answer the following question in approx. 500 words (fit it on 1 page). Please write down whether you have answered "3a" or "3b":

3. Answer only one of the following two questions (you may choose!):
 - a. Both Heidegger and Nietzsche distinguish truth from correctness. For Heidegger, technology is decisive for contemporary culture but correct interpretations of it obscure its true essence. For Nietzsche, the will to truth is a symptom of the disease of European culture. Write an essay in which you explain and compare Heidegger's and Nietzsche's views on the difference between truth and correctness and the relation between truth and culture.
 - b. Each in their own way, Heidegger, Arendt and Adorno warn that technology can constitute a threat to culture. Choose two of these three authors and write an essay on what according to them constitutes the danger of technology for culture, and to what extent they give suggestions for averting that danger.