Exam 1

This exam assesses your ability to apply theoretical knowledge to novel situations and demonstrate proficiency in formulating clear and concise arguments through thesis and abstract writing.

Format:

The exam consists of two parts:

1. **In-Class Component (50 points):**
   ○ You will be presented with AI-generated scenarios that require analysis based on the theories covered in class.
   ○ You will be expected to identify relevant concepts, apply them to the specific context, and provide well-reasoned arguments supported by evidence.
   ○ The questions will be short answer or essay format.
2. **Out-of-Class Component (50 points):**
   ○ You will be assigned the task of writing three thesis statements and corresponding abstracts.
   ○ You will pick three papers / chapters that we have thus far read. You will then write for each of them a thesis statement and an abstract of the entire paper / chapter.
      i. The thesis statements should clearly articulate the main argument of a potential research paper.
      ii. The abstracts should provide concise summaries of the proposed research, including its purpose, methods, and significance.
   ○ Detailed instructions on the out-of-class component are on the next two pages.

Timeline:

- The in-class component will be administered during the scheduled exam period (Date tbd).
- The out-of-class component will be assigned one week before the in-class exam and due on the day of the in-class exam.

Grading:

Each component will be worth 50 points, for a total of 100 points. Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on both components.

Additional Information:

- **Plagiarism:** Any instance of plagiarism in the out-of-class component will result in a zero for at least that portion of the exam.
- **Preparation:** Thoroughly review the assigned readings and lecture notes to prepare for both components of the exam.
- **Questions:** If you have any questions or concerns about the exam format or expectations, please don't hesitate to ask your instructor.

You got this!

Thesis Statement and Abstract Writing Instructions:

Purpose:

This assignment assesses your ability to formulate clear and concise arguments and summarize research proposals in the style of authors covered in the course.

Task:

Select three papers / chapters covered in the course and write one thesis statement and one corresponding abstract for each.

Format:

- **Thesis Statement:**
    - One to two sentences that clearly articulate the main argument of the proposed research paper.
    - ***Must*** begin with the phrase: "In this paper/chapter, I will argue that..." followed by one to two sentences that clearly articulate the main argument of the paper/chapter. Other formulations will receive ***zero*** points.
    - Should reflect the author's perspective.
- **Abstract:**
    - A concise summary of the proposed research (150-200 words).
    - Should include the following elements:
        - **Purpose:** What is the research trying to achieve?
        - **Methods:** How will the research be conducted?
        - **Significance:** Why is this research important?
    - Should be written in clear, concise language.

Example:

Author: John Stuart Mill

- **Thesis Statement:** In this paper, I will argue that the innate desire for pleasure and aversion to pain, as evidenced by human behavior and introspection, provides a firm foundation for the principle of utility. This principle, which claims that actions are right when the best proportion of happiness to pain is produced, is the cornerstone of the moral theory known as Utilitarianism.

- **Abstract:** This study delves into the psychological and empirical underpinnings of the principle of utility, the cornerstone of my utilitarian philosophy. By examining the innate human desire for pleasure and aversion to pain, I will demonstrate how these fundamental motivations serve as the basis for a moral framework that prioritizes the maximization of happiness for the greatest number of individuals. Through a combination of introspection, observation, and analysis of human behavior, I will have proved that happiness is the only good. This conclusion will not only bolster the theoretical foundations of utilitarianism but also provide practical insights into how individuals and societies can strive towards greater happiness and well-being.

Submission:

Submit your thesis statements and abstracts on Canvas as a single Word document or PDF file on the day of the in-class exam.

Grading:

Each thesis statement and abstract pair will be worth approximately 16.67 points. Your work will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Clarity and conciseness of the thesis statement.
- Adherence to the required thesis statement structure ("In this paper/chapter, I will argue that...").
- Accuracy and relevance of the abstract to the thesis statement.
- Appropriateness of the language and style to the author's theoretical framework.
- Overall quality of writing, including grammar, punctuation, and organization.

Important Note:

The work that you submit must be your own. Any instance of plagiarism will result in a zero for the out-of-class component of the exam.