**World Views**

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**Study Guide for Test #2**

Our second in-class evaluation for the year is worth 15% of the final grade for the course. It will cover all topics that we have discussed since the beginning of the course, but it will emphasize topics we have covered since the last test, especially:

**Hinduism**

* Major concepts: Brahmin, Atman, Moksha, Karma,
* Brahmin: The ultimate unity of the world and the metaphysical ground of all things
* Atman: The higher self
* Moksha: Liberation from suffering
* Karma: The way in which one’s actions produce consequences for who you are, and what your ‘destiny’ will be.
* The four castes
* Brahmins: The priestly class, between man and god. Incarnation of Dharma
* Kshatriyas: The warrior class who protect the people
* Vaisyas: The merchant and peasant class
* Shudras: The labor class, whose only duty is to serve the 3 upper castes
* Also the Chandalas: the lowest of the Shudras, they were impure. The untouchables
* The basic story of the Bhagavad Gita
* Story about Arjuna, a warrior fighting for his family on the battlefield, but also against his family since he has family on the other side. He’s faced with the moral dilemma of either fighting for his side and killing his family, changing sides and still killing his family, or doing nothing and watching his family die. He speaks to his charioteer, Lord Shri Krishna, who is actually an incarnation of God and he is told essentially that fighting is the right thing to do.

If you have time, read this summary of it:

<http://www.gradesaver.com/bhagavad-gita/study-guide/summary>

**Buddhism**

* Major events in the life of Siddartha Gautama
* Before he was born he was predicted to be either a deeply religious man, or a great warrior king like his father.
* Grew up surrounded by influence to be warrior. Never permitted to leave his father’s palace until age 7ish?
* First time he left, he saw death of small animals and then others eat the dead, became aware of the circle of life.
* Got married and had a son, still only leaving the castle once.
* Around 30 yrs old, gets his parents to let him out, so they arrange for everything in the village to be perfect.
* He sees 4 things while in the village that shape him:
* A sick man stumbling around, so charioteer taught him about disease
* Saw an old man, so charioteer taught him about the inevitable old age
* Saw a dead man, so charioteer taught him about the inevitability of death.

^^^ These are the canonical 3 things

* Saw a homeless Hindi man. Charioteer told him it was a holy man seeking the solution to suffering.
* Four Noble Truths
* Life is suffering
* Suffering is caused by attachment
* Suffering can be ended by non-attachment
* The eight-fold path
* Right views
* Right intention
* Right speech
* Right action
* Right livelihood
* Right effort
* Right mindfulness
* Right concentration

^ Don’t need to know these 8 I don’t think, just included them here to be thorough

* Samsara, Nirvana
* Samsara: The cycle of life/death, birth/rebirth
* Nirvana: The escape from the cycle of samsara. Ultimate enlightenment and the goal of any Buddhist
* Doctrine of No-Soul
* A fundamental concept saying there is no soul. Humans aren’t made up of some underlying substance. This is one big difference between Buddhism and Hinduism, the Hindu believe in the “Atman”.

**Aristotle**

* Essences
* Qualities which you can use to describe anything in the world that all of them together are unique to it. There are nine qualitities:
* Quantity
* Quality
* Relation
* Place
* Time
* Position
* Condition
* Action
* Affection
* The procedure by which Aristotle defines human essence
* Doctrine of the Four Causes
* The efficient cause: The agent chiefly responsible for moving, shaping or forming the thing. This sort of account relies on an understanding of cause-and-effect.
* The material cause: The matter, the stuff, of which the thing is composed
* The formal cause: The form is ‘supplied by’ the species to which the thing belongs
* The final cause: The reason for the thing’s having come into being. This is usually considering the thing’s purpose, goal, or function.
* If we knew the final cause for a human, we would know what human nature is.

**Classical Philosophy After Aristotle**

* Epicureanism: the real meaning of hedonism, the problem of evil
* The greatest good is to seek modest pleasures in order to attain a state of tranquility, freedom from fear and absence from bodily pain.
* Hedonism: A form of Hedonism since it declares pleasure to be its sole goal.

However, the concept that the absence of pain and fear constitutes the greatest pleasure, and its advocacy for a simple life make it very different from Hedonism.

* Problem of evil:

God is an all powerful being, and therefore can eliminate all evil in the world. However evil exists.

So God does not want to vanquish evil from the world.

Which means he is spiteful- contrary to how we perceive God.

So obviously God cannot vanquish evil.

Meaning god is not all powerful- contrary to how we perceive God.

Therefore, there is a serious problem with the idea of God existence. Maybe God doesn’t even exist

* Neo-Platonism: impersonal monotheism and the concept of ‘One And All’
* Sorry, this part is blank, I really didn’t understand Neo-platonism…
* Believe the physical world is not the whole world itself.
* Stoicism: happiness / Eudaimonia, stoic fortitude, pantheism.
* Being responsible for our own happiness, therefore you should concern yourself with what is within your range of realistic choices.
* Also knowing that some things are totally out of your control and you’re going to have to deal with them and the consequences that occur from them.

**Christianity**

* Major events in the life of Saint Paul
* Used to work for the Roman empire, prosecuting Christians
* On the road to Damascus, encountered the resurrected Jesus.
* Went blind and was led by Jesus to Damascus. Spent the whole trip praying to God
* Regained sight when he arrived in Damascus, and he got baptized.
* Converted to Christianity
* The Covenant

NOT COVERED ANYWHERE IN NOTES, BUTE HERE IT IS ANYWAY

* Literally, a contract. In the bible, an agreement between God and his people, in which God makes promises to his people and, usually, requires certain conduct from them. In the Old Testament, God made agreements with Noah, Abraham, and Moses.
* The Doctrine of Original Sin
* The idea that people are born sinful and Jesus died to redeem our sins. He redeemed the sins of all of humanity.
* Idea comes from the story of Adam and Eve where Eve takes an apple from the tree that God told them not to touch and eats it, then they get kicked out of the garden of Eden
* Redemption and The ‘Good News’
* The ‘Good News’ mean Gospel

*Be ready to:*

* Describe each of these concepts in one or two sentences.
* Following the model described in class, explain what each world view regards as its diagnosis, techniques, and prescription.
* Reply to a critical question about the soundness of each world view’s diagnosis and prescription.

Remember the criteria for a good world view:

* Rational : An acceptable world view is **rational** when it is **the product of sustained rational thought** about the way things really are.
* Ethical : An acceptable world view is **ethical** when it can tell us **something about the difference between right and wrong**, and when it can help us become better human beings.
* Optimistic : An acceptable world view is **optimistic** when it **presupposes that life on earth is valuable and good.**