

## Phil 210 \_\_Midterm

**Due Saturday (3/20) at 5 pm on Sakai. (Submit as a word document.)**

*You should answer exactly one question from each section, for a total of exactly three essay responses.*

**Please note:** You are allowed to use the PPTs, your class notes, and the readings from *RAGP* (as well as those assigned from *SEP*). You should not use other sources and you should work independently. Do not discuss the midterm with other students. You are required to cite the page number (or slide number) for any direct quotes or close paraphrases.

### **Section One: Presocratics**

*Directions: Answer exactly one question. [Your answer should be approximately 500-600 words]*

1. Using one of the Milesian philosophers as an illustration, explain how they theorized about the natural world. In what respects did the various ideas expressed in the poems of Xenophanes reflect a broadening of interests relative to the interests displayed by the Milesian thinkers? Explain at least one of these respects in more detail.
2. What *logos* (or message/account) did Heraclitus think earlier thinkers had heard but failed to understand? (Focus on explaining his *logos* but also discuss how his way of thinking/learning about the world differed from Xenophanes' and/or the Milesians'.)
3. Explain the core of Parmenides' argument that what-is can never come into being. Empedocles, Anaxagoras, and the Atomists all attempted to account for the existence of change without violating Parmenides' constraint that 'nothing can come from nothing'. Explain how at least one of them did so.

### **Section Two: Socrates/Socratic Dialogues**

*Directions: Answer exactly one question. [Your answer should be approximately 500-600 words]*

1. Euthyphro attempts to define the pious as what all the gods love. **A)** Explain how Socrates refutes Euthyphro (about this attempted definition). **B)** How might Euthyphro have avoided being refuted? Would this move raise any difficulties of its own? Explain.
2. **A)** Explain the core of Socrates' argument in *Crito* that he should not escape from Athens. **B)** Do you find his argument convincing? Why or why not?
3. Socrates is charged with corrupting the Athenian youth and with impiety (not believing in the gods of Athens). **A)** Explain the most important arguments (in your opinion) that Socrates makes against these charges in the *Apology*. **B)** Pick one of the charges: do you think he was guilty of it? Why or why not?

### **Section Three: Plato**

*Directions: Answer exactly one question. [Your answer should be approximately 500-600 words]*

1. **A)** According to Plato's *Symposium*, what did Socrates learn about the nature of love from the priestess Diotima? **B)** Does this account of love adequately capture what it is? Why or why not?
  
2. In the beginning of the *Republic*, both Thrasymachus and Glaucon make arguments challenging the claim that being just is better than being unjust. **A)** Of these 'challenges to morality', explain the one that you think is the strongest. **B)** Are you convinced by it? Why or why not?