

PHIL 3923H: Honors Colloquium on Free Will  
Prof. Funkhouser  
9/24/06

## EXAM #1 REVIEW

Your first midterm exam will be worth 200 points, allocated as follows. You will answer 5 of 6 shorter answer questions, worth 20 points each. Then, you will answer 2 or 3 longer answer questions, worth 50 points each. The questions will be drawn from the topics provided below. It will take place Thursday, September 28th, during our regular class time. Bring at least one “blue book” and make sure not to write in it prior to the examination.

**Background:** conceptual analysis; thought experiments; modality and possible worlds; arguments (validity and soundness); intuitive understanding of free will; steps in decision making and action (e.g., deliberation, choice, will, etc.); the importance of free will; determinism/indeterminism; law of nature; necessitation; Principle of Sufficient Reason; brute facts and genuine randomness; compatibilism/incompatibilism

**Locke:** will, power, and liberty; Locke’s definition of ‘freedom’/‘liberty’; voluntary (in contrast with free); necessity; Locke’s examples in which freedom is lacking, and why (e.g., the tennis ball and the falling man); free agents, not free wills; uneasiness; deliberation/examination; Locke’s compatibilism

**Hume:** verbal disputes; ‘necessity’ and ‘liberty’ defined; Hume’s various examples of necessity in human affairs; the comparisons of human (moral) necessity to physical necessity; compare Hume’s account of liberty and necessity to Locke’s account; necessity as *required* for liberty (and moral responsibility in particular)

**PVI, Chapters 1–2:** the Compatibility Problem and the Traditional Problem; PVI’s definition of ‘determinism’; a cluster of concepts: free will, can, ability, and power; the Consequence Argument; know the following definitions: fatalism, strong inevitability, and weak inevitability; the witch example; Taylor’s naval commander example; the ambiguity of Principle (A); the Law of the Excluded Middle (LEM); the argument for fatalism from LEM

**PVI, Chapter 3:** PVI on psychological laws of nature; ‘can render false’; the judge/execution example; the First Formal Argument (in particular, the premises that can be reasonably denied); the Arcturus example; let’s skip the Second Formal Argument, for exam purposes;  $N$ ,  $\alpha$ , and  $\beta$ ; the Third Formal Argument, and the 5 objections (95)

**PVI, Chapter 4:** the Paradigm Case Argument; examples: tigers, solidity, and the Morning/Evening Star; PVI on the relevance of scientific (or other empirical) discoveries to free will; the Conditional Analysis Argument; examples: Smith’s fear of red candies and the coma; the *Mind* Argument; randomness and indeterminism; the stone example (139–140); the puzzling and the inconceivable (149–150)