

Phi 260: History of Philosophy I
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University of Kentucky
Spring 2007

Final Exam
Study Guide and Sample Questions

- (1) How do Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, and Scotus argue for the existence of God? (Pay particular attention to Anselm and Aquinas.) Are these good arguments? If not, why not? What premises are weak? Can one ever give an argument that produces theistic belief?
- (2) What is the “problem of evil”? How do Augustine and Aquinas try to escape this problem? That is, what is the source of evil, if not from the creator, God?
- (3) Explain the apparent conflict between (a) God’s omniscience (including his foreknowledge of everything that will happen), (b) God’s benevolence, justice and mercy, and (c) human freedom. How do Augustine and Aquinas attempt to resolve this conflict? Is any real resolution possible? Is the problem created by divine foreknowledge the same as the problem created by physical determinism (the thesis that all events in the natural world are determined by strict laws of necessity, i.e. the laws of physics, etc.)?
- (4) What is the nature of the soul or mind? Provide your own answer that engages with the views of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas.
- (5) Compare and contrast Plato, Aristotle, Scotus and Ockham on the nature of universals.
- (6) Everything from the previous study guides is fair game for the final.

***Contrary to what it says on the syllabus,
the Final Exam is on Tuesday, May 1st at 10:30am***