

This document gives you general instructions for the upcoming exam for Pol S 302 (“Free Will, Nature, and Nurture in Politics and Society”), along with two sample questions.

The exam will occur during our class time (3:30-5:20) on Wednesday, April 21. You will receive the questions by email at 3:30 on that day, and you will upload your answers to the course’s Canvas site by 5:20.

General instructions:

- The best answers will be entirely in your own words, containing no phrases or sentences lifted directly from lecture slides.
- Make sure you abide by the word limits. Anything you write beyond the word limit for a given answer will not be graded.
- Upon completion of the exam, you will upload your answers to Canvas in a doc, docx, or pdf file.
- The place to upload your file is at the course’s Canvas site, under “Assignments,” then “midterm exam.”
- Answer every question. You will always get some points just for trying.
- Save your file on a regular basis to reduce the dangers of a computer crash, power outage, or other problems.
- Name your file to something very different from the file containing these questions, so that you can easily tell them apart. Make sure you upload your answer file, not the question file.
- You will have a ten-minute grace period to allow for potential difficulties in uploading your file.
- Late submissions will be penalized by 5 points for every 10 minutes late, with the clock starting at the first minute late after the grace period.

The exam will be five questions. All of the questions will be short essays with a word limit. The readings/videos/audio recordings will be eligible for the exam only if they were referenced during lectures.

You can find below two sample questions to give you a sense of what to expect:

1. When thinking about the justification for punishment for crimes, explain why a hard determinist must reject a system based on retribution but could embrace a system based on deterrence.

(Maximum length of answer: 300 words)

2. A hard determinist, a compatibilist, and a libertarian walk into a bar, and each of them orders a different drink. How does each person explain their action and its connection to free will?

(Maximum length of answer: 400 words)