

Due: 5:20 PM Pacific time

General instructions:

- The best answers will be entirely in your own words, containing no phrases or sentences lifted directly from lecture slides or Internet sites. The exams will be filtered through Turnitin, a program designed to aid in uncovering plagiarism.
- 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.
- It is your responsibility to ensure the file uploaded is correct and not corrupted. Do not "lock" or "corrupt" your file and use that as an excuse for being tardy. Locked files will be considered late and assessed the penalties below.
- 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.

1. By comparison to the other countries with comparable data, the United States ranks 38th in the average scores of its 15-year-olds on the mathematics portion of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Develop a structural account to explain this ranking. Then develop an agency-based account to explain this ranking.

Maximum response length: 200 words. This question is worth 15 points.

2. How would someone who believes in compatibilist free will handle the concept of karma in Hinduism? Does karma pose a threat to compatibilist free will? If yes, why? If no, why not?

Maximum response length: 300 words. This question is worth 20 points.

3. Why do cultural anthropologists take the nurture side of the nature/nurture debate? In your answer, be sure to explain how the ways that cultural anthropologists conduct research lead them to their conclusions about nurture.

Maximum response length: 300 words. This question is worth 20 points.

4. A hard determinist and a libertarian are discussing a person who has reached the top of their profession and has won numerous awards and honors. What does the hard determinist say about how much praise the person deserves, and why? What does the libertarian say about how much praise the person deserves, and why?

Maximum response length: 300 words. This question is worth 20 points.

5. Justin has been cheating on his wife, and he explains his thinking to one of his friends. Justin says, "I can't help it—cheating is in my nature. Evolution left men with a desire to spread their seed widely. Many married men have affairs, and there's nothing morally wrong with it." Evaluate each component of Justin's statement. Is he right, wrong, or right in some ways and wrong in others?

Maximum response length: 400 words. This question is worth 25 points.