

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHIL002: Introduction to Philosophy—Morals and Politics**

**Film Journal: *A Clockwork Orange***

As we watch the film this week, I'd like you to consider some philosophical questions and problems that it raises. I've offered a few questions to complement each day's viewing. Please write down your comments and thoughts on these questions on the evening corresponding to the appropriate viewing day. This will serve as a journal to collect thoughts and ideas as we prepare for a thorough discussion of the film next week.

The idea here is *not* to create rigorous essays, but rather to collect your thoughts. Spend time thinking the questions over, but don't worry about stylistic considerations (grammar, etc.) here.

**Section 1:**

Choose one of Alex's acts of "ultra-violence" and evaluate it from a utilitarian perspective. Then evaluate it from a Nietzschean perspective. Do you think that Mill and Nietzsche will have similar attitudes toward Alex, or will their views differ?

## Section 2:

While Alex is in prison he talks to the Chaplain about the treatment and about wanting to be good. The Chaplain says “The question is whether or not this technique really makes a man good. Goodness comes from within. Goodness is chosen.” Is the Chaplain right?

Consider whether the treatment that Alex undergoes is an appropriate “punishment” for his crimes. When thinking about this, ask yourself what you think the *purpose* of punishment is. Is it to “correct” the offender? Is it to bring about some kind of retribution against the offender?

**Section 3:**

The writer says of Alex, "I tell you, sir, they have turned this young man into something other than a human being. He has no power of choice any more. He's committed to socially acceptable acts, a little machine capable only of good." What's so bad about that? Is there anything problematic with it?

Does society's interest in maintaining social peace outweigh a criminal's right to retain his character traits? Does it make a difference if the criminal is extremely violent?