

# STUDY GUIDE

## PHIL08

### Midterm

I will choose *seven* of the following questions, and you will be required to provide responses to *five* of my selections. You will be given twenty-five minutes in class. You will not need a blue book.

1. Explain the difference between normative and descriptive language.
2. How does Rachels characterize "the minimum conception of morality"?
3. What is the "cultural differences argument"?
4. Describe at least one major objection to cultural relativism.
5. How is emotivism distinct from general ethical relativism (subjectivism)?
6. What, according to Robert Epperson, is the difference between the moral life and the 'life of integrity'?
7. Describe the Divine Command Theory of ethics.
8. What are the three key elements of the Theory of Natural Law?
9. How is psychological egoism distinct from ethical egoism?
10. Reconstruct Ayn Rand's argument for Ethical Egoism.
11. Moral philosophers often maintain that "'ought' implies 'can'". What does this mean?
12. Singer's central argument in "Famine, Affluence, and Morality". Rests on two key premises. The first is that death and suffering due to malnutrition, inadequate medical care, etc. are bad. What is the *strong* version of the second key premise?
13. According to Colin Gavaghan, it makes no sense to say that discarded embryos are harmed by PGD (pre-implantation genetic diagnosis). Why does he think this?
14. One objection to PGD contends that widespread implementation of the process would reduce the political 'clout' of "disabled persons who already exist or who will be born regardless of the availability of PGD" (Gavaghan). Gavaghan does not think that this possibility is a good enough reason to prohibit PGD. Why not?