Previous Final Examinations
Philosophy 151

Please answer all questions in the space provided. Try not to leave any answer area blank, even if you are not sure of the correct answer. Read all the questions before beginning to answer any of them. It is best to answer first all the questions that you are most confident about and save the remaining time for the more difficult questions.

2011

1. What, according to Fichte, is the nature and role of the sensible world?

2. What is the basis of human moral virtue, according to Schopenhauer?

3. What was Hegel’s primary criticism of logic as it had been traditionally understood?

4. What, according to Hegel, is the end or telos of human history?

5. How did Marx conceive of ideology, and what did he regard as its defect?

6. What is the nature of truth, according to Kierkegaard?

7. What is the nature and significance of dread, on Kierkegaard’s view?

8. What, according to Nietzsche, is the origin of the notion of "guilt" or "bad conscience?"

9. What, according to Nietzsche, is the origin of self-consciousness?

10. According to Dostoyevski’s "underground man," how does the reaction of the "man of action" differ from that of the man who is "too conscious," when each is faced with the fundamental barriers that the world poses to his actions?

2008

1. What was Fichte’s conception of God, and what conception would it replace?

2. How did Schopenhauer argue for the primacy of the will over the intellect on the basis of the relation of the knower to the known?

3. In what way does philosophical thinking different from and superior to thinking in the empirical sciences, according to Hegel?
4. In what sense is the labor of the worker “alienated,” according to Marx?

5. Why did Marx think that the bourgeoisie would be overthrown by the proletariat?

6. Describe the process in modern society that Kierkegaard called “leveling.”

7. What is the difference between the “knight of infinite resignation” and the “knight of faith,” for Kierkegaard?

8. What was Nietzsche’s view of the nature of human happiness, and with what view does it conflict?

9. How, according to Nietzsche, did the modern concepts of “good” and “evil” arise?

10. What is “the most advantageous advantage,” according to Dostoyevsky’s underground man, and with what view is this contrasted?