

PHI 363 - METAPHYSICS
MIDTERM STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

PHILOSOPHY (90%)

[*I'll pick 6 on exam day, and then you will answer 5.]

- 1) What is the physical continuity theory of personal identity? Explain one counterexample to this theory.
- 2) What is the psychological continuity theory of personal identity? Explain one counterexample to this theory.
- 3) What do you think the right answer is to the personal identity debate? Why?
- 4) What is the puzzle of non-being? Explain it in your own words.
- 5) What are McX's and Wyman's views about what Santa is? State one problem for each view.
- 6) What is Quine's view of ontological commitment? What are the three steps? How would Quine respond to the puzzle of non-being?
- 7) What is the best response to the puzzle of non-being in your opinion? McX? Wyman? Quine? Or something else? And why?
- 8) What is the One Over Many argument for platonism about abstract objects (with just one premise and one conclusion)? How would Quine respond to the argument? What is the more extended version of the argument in terms of explanation (the one that is 3 premises and a conclusion)?
- 9) What is the nominalist's argument that mathematics is false? What is fictionalism about mathematics? And what is the indispensability argument for mathematical platonism?
- 10) What is the Ship of Theseus puzzle? What are the four possible responses we went over in class? What is a problem with each? What do you think is the right response? Why?

11) What is the special composition question? What are the main answers to this question? What do you think the right answer is? Why?

12) What is Leibniz's Law of the Indiscernibility of Identicals? What is the Identity of Indiscernibles? Which of these two principles is a Max Black world a purported counterexample to, and why? Why does the Indiscernibility of Identicals seem to imply that two things can be located at the same place at the same time?

LOGIC (10%)

[*I'll pick 5 on exam day.]

Translate the following English sentences in Predicate Logic.

- 1) Bob is tall.
- 2) Bob is not tall.
- 3) Bob is taller than Mary.
- 4) Someone is tall.
- 5) Some men are dumb.
- 6) All men are dumb.
- 7) Some birds do not fly.
- 8) No dinosaurs are pizza eaters.
- 9) Some mammals lay eggs and some mammals do not lay eggs.
- 10) Bob loves someone.

EXTRA CREDIT: The king of the US is tall.

EXTRA CREDIT: If the king of the US is tall, then either the king of Mexico is short or the king of Canada is short.