

### Philosophy 1: Exam 3

Directions: Choose 1 or 2, choose 3 or 4, and choose 5 or 6.

1. A) What are the basic questions and problem of epistemology and metaphysics? How has this emerged via Kant, Hume, Hegel, Nietzsche, Gadamer, and others as (or been replaced by) the question of meaning and interpretation/hermeneutics? How do we understand objectivity, truth, understanding now? Why are questions such as whether truth is relative or absolute no longer meaningful? What has all this got to do with human finitude, vulnerability, and the fundamental condition of interpretation? Why is it not the case that anything goes? (Focus: Class, Melnick text, internet ([www.stanford.edu](http://www.stanford.edu)), Kolak, Pickard articles, esp. Nietzsche, Emancipation and Truth.)
2. State briefly the central questions addressed by epistemology and metaphysics? Briefly compare the rationalist and empiricist philosophies in 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century western philosophy and show how they culminated in Hume and Kant. What was Kant's new conception of knowledge ("Second Copernican Revolution" that replaced previous models of consciousness and knowledge (correspondence) and what led him to this? What problems in the epistemology and metaphysics of rationalism and empiricism did this solve? How did Kant's revolution "show the limits of reason to make room for faith" (and morality). What new problems did his revolution lead to (for example the noumena/phenomena distinction)?
3. Discuss the central features of Nietzsche's thinking. How was his thinking a challenge to western philosophy and religion? How was it both a culmination of yet departure from the critique of reason begun by Kant and then romanticism? How did Nietzsche set much of the agenda for 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy? Why do you think he is so controversial and misunderstood?
4. Read "[Nietzsche, Emancipation, & Truth](#)" in [New Nietzsche Studies, \(SUNY\), Winter, 1997, pp. 85-109](#). Discuss the central ideas of this article about truth (reason and reflexivity, etc.), genuine ethics (versus morality), human emancipation and the possibility of transformation (amor fati, nihilism, übermensch, etc.).
5. Choose two 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophers of diverse approaches. Show the importance of their contribution to philosophy and how they continued or altered the "great conversation."
6. Read Chapter 6 of *Human Experience* by Russon (on website) and write an essay showing first an understanding of this piece with regard to education, philosophy, and therapy in relation to the task of developing an identity as a human being and what this reveals about the nature of human experience.