

Phil 306: Egoism and Altruism

3rd take-home exam. 3-4 pages (750-1000 words). Worth 20% of your final grade.

DUE: Tuesday May 19, by 1:00 PM in my mailbox (W-5-017) or under my office door (W-5-012), or electronically as an attachment [I will not accept it as the text of a message][but you have to make sure beforehand that I can receive an attachment from you]. You may also turn the paper in at my home in Central Square, Cambridge, 3 blocks from the Central Square T stop; you can just drop it into my mail slot. I don't need to be there. (Ask for my address if you want to take this option.)

Lateness penalty: .2 off for every 24-hour period late until Friday. The exam will not be accepted after Friday. **LATE PAPERS (AFTER TUESDAY) CANNOT BE TURNED IN AT UMASS. I WILL NOT BE ON CAMPUS LATER IN THE WEEK.** They can be turned in electronically or at my home.

[REMEMBER THAT YOUR FINAL PAPER IS DUE BY MIDNIGHT THAT SAME DAY, TUESDAY 19TH.]

Write an essay on one of the following topics:

1. Kierkegaard's idea of "neighbor love," the Dalai Lama's idea of "compassion," and Kropotkin's idea of "mutual aid" (which is both a practice and a kind of sentiment, as Kropotkin understands it) are comparable. **Pick 2** of these thinkers and write an essay on some important similarities and differences between their ideas just mentioned. Somewhere in your paper, make use of a reference to the film, "Weapons of the Spirit."
2. We have read (or viewed) several things relating to the ways that social factors, either in the immediate environment or in the more general setting of the agents in question, affect whether a person engages in altruistic activity. Three of these are Doris, "Moral Character, Moral Behavior;" Singer, "Altruism and Commerce;" and Blum, "Virtue and Community" (which concerns the village portrayed in "Weapons of the Spirit"). Two other readings could be viewed under this description also: Held, "The Grounds of Social Trust," and Kropotkin, "Mutual Aid Amongst Ourselves." Pick two or three of these [your choice about how many, depending on how much you have to say about them in relation to the word/page guideline] and compare and contrast what they are saying about the social influence on altruism.

[The 3rd choice of topic will be handed out in class on Tuesday, 12th]

Lateness penalty for final paper (due by midnight, Tuesday, May 19): .4 if turned in by midnight Wednesday, .8 if by Thursday at 6PM. *Not accepted after that.*
[this information was not included in your final paper material]