

Phil 306: Egoism and Altruism

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 19<sup>TH</sup>.]

[OPTIONS 1 AND 2 HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN OUT]

**Option 3.** Several of the authors we read discussed a contrast between what might be called "universal altruism" and "conditional altruism." Universal altruism is altruism (or love, or compassion) toward another person as a fellow human being. Conditional altruism is altruism (or love, or compassion) toward another person in virtue of their standing in a particular relationship to oneself (friend, lover, family member, member of same ethnic group or nation); the altruism is conditional upon and particularized to that relationship. And some of our authors do not clearly or definitively accept the idea that what I am calling "conditional altruism" is a genuine form of altruism (or love, or compassion) at all.

Explain, compare and contrast 2 of the following authors on the *nature and worth* of universal and of conditional altruism:

1. Dalai Lama, from An Open Heart
2. Kierkegaard, from Works of Love

[YOU MUST PICK ONE OF DALAI LAMA AND KIERKEGAARD]

3. John Cottingham, "Partiality, Favouritism, and Morality"
4. Lawrence Blum, "Friendship as a Moral Phenomenon"

[YOU MUST PICK ONE OF COTTINGHAM AND BLUM]