

Philosophy 2330: Science and Society Exam (Fall 2021)

Please write your R# (but not your name) on the front of your blue book. All answers should be written in your blue book.

Part I. 10 points. ANSWER ALL OF 1-5 (2 pts each)

Short(er) Answer. Answer ALL of the following questions – each answer should be a few sentences long. Each question is worth 2 points. If you think pictures are helpful, feel free to draw in your book.

1) Kelly James Clark uses the acronym “C.S.I.” to remind us of three possible types of views about the relationship between science and religion. Very briefly explain each of these views.

2) What does Kelly James Clark mean by “metaphysical naturalism” and by “methodological naturalism”? Briefly explain why Clark thinks that methodological naturalism is a good view. Hans Halvorson also thinks that methodological naturalism is a good view but for a different reason. What is his reason?

3) Explain how Ptolemy’s model of the cosmos accounts for the retrograde motion of Mars. Then explain how Copernicus’s model of the cosmos accounts for the retrograde motion of Mars.

4) Kelly James Clark lists many different types for evidence for evolution including the fossil record, biogeography, comparative anatomy, embryology, and genetics. Explain what “evolution” means in this context and describe some empirical observations from at one of these categories and explain why it is taken to be evidence for evolution.

5) Describe John Worrall’s view about the relationship between science and religion. Briefly explain why he thinks what he does here.

TURN OVER FOR ESSAY QUESTIONS ON THE BACK!!

Part II. 10 points. ANSWER TWO OF THESE THREE (5 pts each)

Longer answers. Choose two of these three questions and answer each question in full. Each question is worth 5 points. If you think pictures are helpful, feel free to draw in your book.

6) Using a telescope, Galileo was able to see a number of things in the sky that astronomers before him did not see. Briefly describe some of the discoveries and explain how they might be relevant to the debate between the Geocentric and Heliocentric models of the solar system. What were some of the main reasons that Ptolemy (and almost every other astronomer before 1600) preferred the Geocentric model of the solar system rather than the Heliocentric system? After Galileo's discoveries, do you think astronomers should have accepted the Heliocentric view? Why or why not?

7) Stephen Jay Gould, Galileo, and Alvin Plantinga each have different views about how a Christian (or any religious person) should think about interpreting a religious text such as the Bible. What does each of these authors recommend a religious person should do when faced with an apparent conflict on issues like the structure of the solar system, the age of the Earth, or the special creation of humans? What do you think the best view is here and why?

8) In class we discussed arguments for evolution given by Theodosius Dobzhansky, Kelly James Clark, and myself. Describe two or three different arguments for evolution that we discussed in class (it is perfectly fine to discuss the same argument you discussed previously in #4). Now choose at least two of Kelly James Clark, Alvin Plantinga, and Steve Dille and say whether and how they think your background religious beliefs should matter for the question of how strong these arguments are. Do you think that the strength of these arguments depends on whether or not you believe in God? Why or why not?