

CLASSICS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY  
PHIL 3010/FALL 2003/PROFESSOR TUEDIO

FINAL EXAM

You are to write on two questions. The following question is required:

1: Assuming you accept Judith Butler's notion regarding all universal claims (for instance, efforts to define our concept of justice, our sense of basic human rights, or the proper scope of the social marriage entitlement), namely, that they all involve a "cultural articulation" of universality, how do you understand Plato's project for establishing and preserving justice in the Republic? Lay out your understanding of Butler's claim before discussing the implications for Plato's project. When discussing Plato's project from the standpoint of Butler's claim, make sure you identify carefully the most relevant aspects of Plato's position to discuss in light of Butler's position.

2a: In addition, you are to write on a second question. Here is one option:

What would it mean if you were to adopt the frame of reference Martha Nussbaum characterizes as the perspective of the "world citizen"? How does Butler's notion of the "cultural articulation of universality" challenge this ideal? Which of these two positions seems more compelling to you as an ideal? Why? (Additional question to consider: How do these two positions relate to Stuart Hampshire's position regarding justice as conflict? Does one position relate more than the other? How so?)

2b: If you don't want to write on this question, you may develop and respond to a question of your own making, but it should derive from your study of course material. Do not write on a question or topic already addressed in your main papers for the course. But you can develop and respond to a question that served as the springboard for a journal entry. You do not have to write on Hampshire's position in Justice as Conflict, but I will be more impressed with efforts that move your discussion in this direction.

Note: You must spend at least 30 minutes writing on each of the two questions you answer, and two hours total on the exam as a whole. You may use your notes, journal and assigned readings, but you must do the writing in class during the allotted time. You will be allowed some additional time if needed.