On the day of the exam, two of the following topics will be chosen at random by me. You will choose and write on one of the chosen topics.

a. Critically assess the claim that moral judgments have meaning and value only within the context of a given culture.

b. Critically assess the claim the interests of the many always outweigh the interests of the individual.

c. Describe the ethical system established by Kant’s categorical imperatives. To what extent does Kant’s system succeed in establishing an universal system of ethics?

d. Select a contemporary issue of societal concern. Analyze this issue from the perspective of one or more of the ethical theories we have discussed in class. This question will require some description of the issue in the introduction, but must focus on analyzing that issue from your chosen ethical perspectives.

You will be allowed a single sheet of hand written notes on the exam. Given this, I will expect you to use quotations and specific references to the documents wherever appropriate.

In general, please follow the format laid out in the first semester for philosophical writing (argument - counter argument - repair). Please include a clear thesis in your introduction that explains precisely what your argument in the paper will be. Exams should be approximately 700 -1000 words in length.

Essays will be assessed based on the following standards (from the IB Philosophy Guide):

A. Expression (1/6 of paper grade)
   • Has the student presented the answer in an organized way?
   • How clear and precise is the language used by the student?
   • To what extent is the language appropriate to philosophy?

B. Knowledge and understanding (1/6 of paper grade)
   • To what extent does the student demonstrate knowledge of philosophical issues arising from the optional theme?
   • How well has the student understood the philosophical concepts and arguments used?

C. Identification and analysis of relevant material (1/3 of paper grade)
   • How well has the student understood the specific demands of the question?
   • To what extent does the student identify and analyze relevant supporting material?
   • To what extent does the student provide appropriate examples and use them to support the overall argument?
   • How effectively does the student identify and analyze appropriate counter arguments?

D. Development and evaluation (1/3 of paper grade)
   • Does the student develop the argument in a coherent way?
   • How well does the student develop and evaluate ideas and arguments?
   • To what extent does the student express a relevant personal response?

Important Dates for the remainder of the class:

   Taylor midterm return - Monday, April 23

   Ethics midterm: Tuesday, May 1

   IB Exam Review: After school Monday, April 30 and Tuesday, May 1

   IB Exam for philosophy: Wednesday, May 2 and Thursday, May 3