**Final Exam Preparation**

Explore the concept of truth in the essays that we read this semester. You will be free to choose one of these topics to answer in the exam. A second topic will be assigned by Dr. Lawler. You will be expected to write about three to four bluebook pages for each essay. You can use a cheat sheet prepared in advance—two sides of a sheet of paper, 6 point font minimum—with an outline of the various topics. But both essays must be written during class time.

1) Explain Rorty’s argument that analytic philosophy is about “getting it right” about fundamental conceptual issues, whereas continental philosophy has a more pragmatic goal, expressed as “shoving the world spirit along.”

2) Explain how, according to Allen, Carnap defends the importance of logic as a means of attaining empirical truth. In his critique of Heidegger, Carnap accepts Nietzsche’s thought as an expression of feelings rather than of objective truth. How does Carnap get both Heidegger and Nietzsche wrong?

3) Explain how, according to Witherspoon, Carnap argues that Heidegger violates logical norms. Give Witherspoon’s defense of Heidegger as presenting a more sophisticated conception of logic.

4) Explain Babich’s presentation of the development of analytic philosophy in which a “sociological turn” has undermined its original orientation, leading to a “post-analytic” phase (It’s not like that anymore). Illustrate the deficiencies of the analytic approach with the criticism of Nietzsche’s position as affirming “the truth that there is no truth.”

5) Explain how for Cerbone a Phenomenologist like Husserl would approach a mental experience such as remembering something, while avoiding the problems that Dennett sees in this enterprise. 1) What are these problems? 2) How would Husserl proceed so as to avoid them? 3) Illustrate with a possible Phenomenology of memory. Explain how both Dennett and Husserl argue that it is possible to attain the truth about consciousness, but in radically different ways.

6) Compare Searle’s correspondence theory of truth with Foucault’s concept of truth—in Prado’s account. Use Foucault’s account of the medieval and early modern concepts of space to illustrate his theory that truth is a function of power. How might Searle reply? Why does Prado think that analytic philosophy has shifted against the correspondence theory?

7) Explain the difference between Davidson’s approach to truth, in Radical Interpretation, and Gadamer’s experiential conception of truth. Elaborate the two approaches as fully as possible, and evaluate their adequacy. (Ramberg)

8) Explain the stages of the discussion between Rorty and Davidson on the nature of truth. Explain how they come to agree with each other regarding the deficiencies of the correspondence theory and the coherence theory. Rorty finally argues that the difference between him and Davidson on truth centers on their different positions regarding the formalization of language. Elaborate on this argument describing Davidson’s use of formalization and explain what Rorty thinks such formalization amounts to. (Sanbothe)

9) In Stocker’s article, Heidegger and Strawson are compared as interpreters of Kant. Compare and contrast these two interpretations in the light of the respective concepts of truth: Heidegger’s concept of truth as “unconcealment” or “unforgetting” (aleitheia) and Strawson’s notion of empirical truth that incorporates conceptual schemes. Evaluate their respective interpretations of Kant: who better gets it right about Kant?