Midterm Exam
Philosophy 201 – Introduction to Human Nature

Answer 9 out of the following 10 questions in the space suggested.

1. Drawing on an example from your reading of the dialogues, explain how you think philosophy distinguishes itself and relates to myth and religion. (two to three paragraphs)

2. What is Kant’s view of “enlightenment”? (2-3 sentences)

3. What are Socrates criteria for a good definition? Consider (but do not include) examples from the Euthyphro’s quest for a definition of piety. (A short paragraph)

4. Summarize Socrates “practice” both in terms of the story of the oracle in Apology and at a more general level. What does Socrates do, from his perspective? (1 paragraph)

5. What is the geometry demonstration supposed to show in the Meno. Explain what is being demonstrated and whether you think Plato makes his point. (2 paragraphs)

6. What is Plato’s method of arguing from the logical relationship among the forms in things? Illustrate with the example of the triad. (1 paragraph)

7. What are the different types of pleasure, according to Epicurus and why is the basic distinction between two types of pleasure important to his philosophy? (2-3 sentences)

8. How do Epicureans and Stoic employ a “separation strategy” for cultivating virtue and happiness? How might someone criticize it? Would you agree? (2 paragraphs)

9. Why does Buddhist enlightenment require you to be nice to others? Show how key values in the 8 fold path are grounded in Buddhist understanding of causes and in the Buddhist account of the motivations toward morality. (2-3 paragraphs)

10. What is paradoxical about liberation, according to Siderits? What is the solution to the paradox? (2-3 sentences)