

Final Exam

Phi 335 Epistemology

Winter 2014, Jared Bates

The final exam is on Wednesday, 16 April, 9am-12pm, in CLA 301. It is worth 100pts. The following topics will appear on it. You are to write on four of them, each being worth 25pts. You will have three hours to write out your answers. Clearly identify by number the question your essay addresses. Your essays will be evaluated by how well you *demonstrate knowledge of course content* and how well you *reason out your answers*.

Write on any three of the following four topics:

- 1) Rehearse Shah's central argument against the teleological account of belief. Critically evaluate this argument.
- 2) Rehearse Kelly's central argument against the instrumentalist conception of epistemic rationality. Critically evaluate this argument.
- 3) Rehearse Grimm's central argument against the prima facie good principle. Critically evaluate this argument.
- 4) Rehearse Dennett & McKay's central argument in favor of adaptive misbelief. Critically evaluate this argument.

Write on the following topic:

- 5) According to the transparency thesis, the question *whether to believe that p* is settled by, and only by, the question *whether p is true*. Explain the phenomenon of transparency more fully. What, if anything, does it show about the nature of belief? How best, if at all, can the phenomenon be explained?