



**UNIVERSITETET I OSLO**  
DET HUMANISTISKE FAKULTET

**EXPHIL03E and EXPHIL03 Exam Spring 2017 – self-study variant**

Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> - at 09:00-13:00 (4 hours)

The set consists of two pages

No books or aids are permitted during the exam

Both part I and part II must be answered

***Part I: History of Philosophy and Science***

Either:

***1. Descartes and Hume***

Answer all 3 parts, a), b) and c).

- a) Describe the process of doubt that leads Descartes to conclude that he does not know anything for certain, except that he exists. In what sense does he claim that his existence is not subject to doubt?
- b) One consequence of Descartes' meditations is his division of the world into two substances (Descartes' Dualism). Within what Descartes calls the extended substance (*res extensa*), which is the external world, he holds a mechanistic world view. Present the main characteristics of this perspective, as well as Descartes' view on so-called secondary properties, for instance colours, sound and smells.
- c) What is the basis for scientific knowledge, according to Hume? Make use of the terms *impression*, *idea* and *habit* in your answer.

Or:

***2. De Beauvoir and Hume on the question of woman***

Answer both part a) and b).

In *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir says:

“The drama of woman lies in this conflict between the fundamental aspirations of every subject (ego) – who always regards the self as the essential – and the compulsions of a situation in which she is the inessential.”

- a) Explain what de Beauvoir means by this statement.
- b) Compare de Beauvoir's idea to Kant's notion that the idea of freedom must rank above the idea of happiness, or to Hume's account of the ideals of chastity and modesty as female virtues.

***Part II: Ethics***

Either:

**3. *Utilitarianism and Deontology***

Answer all 3 parts, a), b) and c).

a) What makes an action or a rule morally right, from a Utilitarian point of view, and what does J.J.C. Smart claim is required for an action to be rational?

b) Make use of the concepts *right* and *rational* to illuminate and describe any morally relevant aspects of the two cases below:

1. Peter sees an old man struggling to carry a heavy bag, and offers to help the man. Later, after the man has been arrested by the police, it turns out to that the bag is full of stolen goods.

2. Karen, who is short-sighted, is out in the woods hunting moose, when she discovers that she has forgotten her glasses at home. She decides forego her glasses and to join her hunting group anyway. While hunting, she believes she has spotted a moose and fires her gun. She kills one of her fellow hunters. It turns out that the man she killed was planning a terror attack that could have potentially killed many innocent people.

c) The Deontologist Charles Fried argues that it is important to make a moral distinction between *intended consequences* and *unintended consequences*, and that one cannot talk about right and wrong actions without using the notion of *intention*. Use these concepts in relation to the cases above and discuss how Fried would have described them.

Or:

**4. *Hursthouse on Abortion***

Answer both part a) and b).

a) Rosalind Hursthouse claims that “the well-known, dominant views (on abortion) are basically irrelevant.” Discuss what she means by this, and describe how she herself treats the issue of abortion from a moral perspective.

b) Peter Singer has a different view, from Hursthouse, of how the issue of abortion should be treated from a moral perspective. Provide an account of Singer’s view. How would he respond to Hursthouse’s arguments?