Final Exam Study Guide for

PHIL 2200: Major Social Theories

**Logistics:**

1. The exam will be on Wed. 12/17, in our normal classroom. (Check mycuinfo for time.)
2. Needed materials: a writing utensil (plus a backup pen or pencil!) You also might wish to bring a watch because the use of cell phones is **not** allowed.

**You should:**

1. Know the material covered before the mid-term. (See the mid-term study guide for more information).
2. **Utilitarianism** (including Bentham, Mill and Singer): you should know and be very familiar with
   1. The three components (*Hedonism, Consequentialism, Impartiality)*
   2. Arguments for Utilitarianism
   3. Objections to Utilitarianism (including objections targeted at each of the three components)
   4. Utilitarian responses to these objections
3. Know **Singer’s** argument that we are morally required to donate to the poor, how he supports the premises, as well as the common objections to his claims. Also, understand whether these objections express factors that are *morally* relevant, or merely *psychologically* relevant (as well as what the difference is between these categories).
4. Understand **Rawls’** Egalitarian views on distributive justice and the related concepts including: his two principles of justice, the “original position”, the “veil of ignorance”, “maxi-min” strategies, etc. Know the objections Utilitarians and Nozick raise to Rawls’ view. Understand the distinction between *positive rights* (having a right “to” *X*) and *negative rights* (right to not to be subjected to *X*/right to be free “from”)
5. Know how **Nozick** responds to Rawls, understand Nozick’s Entitlement Theory/Libertarianism, his proposed principles of justice (acquisition, transfer, rectification), know the difference between historical and end-state principles, and patterned and non-patterned principles. Also, know the objections to Nozick’s views we discussed in class.
6. Be able to compare and contrast the views of **Utilitarians, Rawls, and Nozick** on property and resource distribution.
7. Understand **Marxism** and Marx’s views on Historical Materialism, the Means of Production, Alientation, the current class struggle between the Bourgeoisie and Proletariat, and the predicted revolution, as well as his predictions for the communist state and how it will come about.
8. Be familiar with Plato’s **Crito**, and Socrates’ arguments/reasons for staying, even in the face of execution.
9. Know **Martin Luther King, Jr.s** arguments in the “Letter”, especially his views on civil disobedience and how he differentiates just and unjust laws. Be able to compare and contrast his views with those advocated by Socrates/Plato.
10. Be familiar with the **United Nations** Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and be able to identify which of the authors we’ve studied throughout the semester have likely had influence on the thinking of the UN authors.