

Philosophy 338A
Philosophy of Law
2017
Note Ten

MORE ABOUT TEST #1

1. Matthew has come up with a nice idea which I happily endorse. He has seen it work to good effect in other courses, and we agree that it might be helpful in this one. The idea is this. As you review the material to be covered by test #1, using the sample questions as a guide, you are yourselves in a good position to try to write up test questions of your own. You can do this on a solo basis or you could form small working groups in which one of you writes a question with the others try to answer. One thing that you might learn from this is how tricky it is to craft intellectually challenging questions which are interesting to answer. Any questions that might arise in this way you're free to pass on to us for information. Who knows, one or more of these questions might appear on the test paper!

2. What happens if you don't sit the test on the 16th? But for extenuating circumstances covered by UBC policies, you'll get a zero on the test, representing a 30% depletion of the final course grade. That the test is taken in class at the same time for all, is part of the course's design. The test paper is valid for that day alone and is unusable afterwards (even on the day following). This induces a hardship and an inequity. The hardship is occasioned by the difficulty of thinking up a new set of questions on this same material. The inequity is a twofold one. People who take the test later have more time to prepare, and the pool of askable questions has now shrunk. Except for next-day makeups, delay enlarges the test's coverage, and frustrates the intention to have tests responded to in class by an undifferentiated comparison class. Anyhow, the message here is that it is very important that everyone take the same test at the same time. So please make every effort to be there then.

Of course, there are exceptions. Here they are:

- If you are registered with A & D and arrangements have been made to take the test off-site in an extra-time framework, this is fine. All you need to is give me an advance heads-up by email.

- If you are a UBC student athlete, and are away for a UBC-sanctioned competition, just let me know in advance and give me the contact number of the person who will invigilate the test when you're away. I'll take it from there.

- If illness or injury precludes your attendance, you must tell me as soon as you know it, whether a day or two beforehand or on the day itself. You are strongly advised against after-the-fact notice or no notice at all. Most illnesses or injuries can't be excused. However, if you decide to stay away on that account, you must do the following. You must be examined by a physician. If the doctor is prepared to say *that in his/her professional opinion it would be or have been medically inadvisable for you to sit the test at the scheduled time*, then I will arrange as soon

as possible a meeting at which you and I will discuss the available options. It is very important that the doctor say in plain words that writing the test as scheduled would be or would have been *contrary to his/her* medical advice.

The doctor's note must be signed and must appear on a properly professional form that specifies his or her name, formal qualifications (e.g. MD, FRCPL-Orthopedics) contact numbers and date of your examination.

- If there is a serious family emergency, such as the death of a parent or a sibling, which compels your attendance, remedial measures will be considered. I am mindful of the fact that families differ in their traditions and expectations, and that varying cultural influences can also be in play. Such absences will be dealt with on a merits-of-the-case basis. But here too time is of the essence.
- Sleeping-in doesn't cut it, nor forgetting when the test's been scheduled. Even jitters don't cut it or the sniffles, headaches, and other routine miseries of day-to-day life.

I don't send my students hectoring notes, and I promise that this is not one of them. It is, however, an admonitory note designed to make you aware of the University's policies and expectations. If you already knew them, please excuse the redundancies.