

Political Science 302
Free Will, Nature, and Nurture in Politics and Society
Spring 2023
Professor Mark Alan Smith

The final exam will be in person on Thursday, June 8 from 4:30-6:20. You'll need a full-size blue book. It must be new, with no writing on any of the interior pages.

The exam will be similar to the midterm exam in the style of questions asked. There will be five questions total, each requiring you to write about two paragraphs for a good answer.

There will be one or two questions of the kind where you studied something from the class, and it appears on the exam in roughly the same form. The other questions will require you to extend and apply what you learned from the class. For example, questions could ask you to apply course concepts to one of the readings listed at the bottom of this study guide. Another question could ask you to compare and integrate different parts of the course. Or a question could ask you to apply what you learned to something we didn't directly study, but which follows logically from what we did study. For most of the questions, then, you'll demonstrate your knowledge not merely by reciting course material, but rather by using it to illuminate the phenomenon posed in the question.

As was the case for the midterm exam, all material from lectures will be eligible for the final exam, including lectures from before the midterm. In other words, the exam is comprehensive with respect to the lectures.

For the readings, the same rules apply here as we used for the midterm exam. Namely, all of the readings will have helped to build your general knowledge, and thus could be useful while you answer the questions. However, there will not be any questions tied to a specific reading except for those listed below. For each of these, you'll want to know what the author says and how it connects to major course themes.

By the way, some of the items below are podcasts, and therefore are only audio. Some students find it easier to concentrate on them while doing something else, such as walking around campus, working out, waiting for the bus, or doing the cooking, dishes, or laundry.

May 2 Freddie deBoer, Individual Genetics, Group Environments

May 11 Christopher Federico, The Psychology of Political Behavior

May 18 Roy Baumeister, Do You Really Have Free Will?

May 23 Justin Barrett, The Naturalness of Religion

May 23 Ara Norenzayan, The Idea that Launched a Thousand Civilizations

May 30 Robert Sapolsky, The Toxic Intersection of Poverty and Stress

June 1 Elizabeth Suhay, The Political Science of Genetic Explanations