

**Midterm Exam:**

In around 6 typed pages respond to ONE question from each section, for a total of THREE responses. Your essays are due in class on F 11/6. As usual, no electronic submissions will be accepted. This is an open-book exam. However: you are not to work together with other students, lab assistants, etc. All work is to be your own!

## I.

1. Critically discuss whether Quine (Russell) has solved Plato's beard. For this, you will want to say what Plato's beard is, why one might think that it has been solved, and consider reasons to worry (as described in lecture and in the text).

## II.

2. Compare and contrast the classical, Kantian and contemporary approaches to metaphysics (as in Ch 1). What pressures have led to the contemporary approach? Do you think it is the appropriate way to go? Explain.

3. Explain the sense in which ordinary claims are supposed to generate metaphysical discussion and to count as data for it. Critically discuss whether this makes metaphysics a science.

## III.

4. Critically discuss whether Quine's questions about the fat man in the doorway generate a problem about *criteria of identity* for unactualized possibles. For this, you will have to say what unactualized possibles are and expound the way Quine's questions are supposed to apply; then you are in a position to evaluate. You should demonstrate awareness of Roy's position.

5. Critically discuss whether Quine's questions about the fat man in the doorway generate a problem about *reference* for unactualized possibles. For this, you will have to say what unactualized possibles are and expound the way Quine's questions are supposed to be a problem; then you will be in a position to evaluate.