

FIL 2105 Metafysikk/bevissthetsfilosofi

Spring 2012

Wednesday May 30th 9.00-13.00

The set consist of 2 pages

No means of help allowed

Those who prefer are free to write in Norwegian.

Select **two** of the following tasks:

1. Give an account of the Stoic and the Aristotelian/Thomistic theories of the emotions, including their place and role in their respective psychologies. Explain similarities and differences.
2. David Hume writes in the beginning of Section 2 (Of the Passions) of book II of his *Treatise of Human Nature*:

The passions of PRIDE and HUMILITY being simple and uniform impressions, it is impossible we can ever, by a multitude of words, give a just definition of them, or indeed of any of the passions. The utmost we can pretend to is a description of them, by an enumeration of such circumstances, as attend them: ...

It is evident, that pride and humility, though directly contrary, have yet the same OBJECT. This object is self, or that succession of related ideas and impressions, of which we have an intimate memory and consciousness. Here the view always fixes when we are actuated by either of these passions. According as our idea of ourself is more or less advantageous, we feel either of those opposite affections, and are elated by pride, or dejected with humility. Whatever other objects may be comprehended by the mind, they are always considered with a view to ourselves; otherwise they would never be able either to excite these passions, or produce the smallest encrease or diminution of them. When self enters not into the consideration, there is no room either for pride or humility.

Write a short philosophical commentary on these passages, where Hume's theory of the passions (emotions) is laid out in outline as well as his account of pride in particular. Make comparisons with other authors as you

deem fit, not to show that you know their theories, but to bring out the characteristics of Hume's theory.

3. What is an emotion? What role do emotions play in human lives? Are they limited to human beings? – Write freely but systematically, drawing on materials from the course and your own thoughts.