

Tenth Directed Exercise

Due: Friday, April 29 by 5pm

- Your tenth directed exercise is due by 5pm on **Friday, April 29th**. It may be handed in at any time before that deadline.
- Your assignment should be submitted to our Classes V*2 site under “Assignments” as an attached document.
- As you know from the syllabus, because this is a large lecture class, it is important to have explicit and uniform policies. Among those policies is the following:
 - Directed exercises will be marked down 1 point for each 24 hours that they are late (rounded up to the nearest 24 hours).

Exercise:

Design a week of “Philosophy and the Science of Human Nature” by selecting a set of readings from two or more disciplines. Your selected readings should echo the mission of the course in its “spirit” though not necessarily in its “letter.” (That is, though your readings should be selected from two or more disciplines, *it is fine if neither of those disciplines is Philosophy or Cognitive Science.*)

Detailed instructions can be found on the second page of this handout.

This Exercise is worth up to 7 points.

Background:

As you may recall from the Syllabus, the mission of “Philosophy and the Science of Human Nature” is threefold:

- to introduce you to a number of traditional philosophical discussions that address profound questions about the human condition, and to help you think about the ways in which the methodology of philosophy provides insight regarding them
- to introduce you to related discussions of these topics from the perspective of other academic disciplines – particularly contemporary cognitive science and psychology –and to help you think about the ways in which the methodology of those disciplines provides insight regarding them
- to help you think about your own education in a synthetic way, by encouraging you to be sensitive to how insights from one academic (or other) context may be echoed or illuminated by insights from another

In completing Directed Exercise 10, you should focus in particular on the third of these bullet points. This exercise is intended to be fun and engaging: please choose a topic that interests and excites you.

Important note:

Your tenth Directed Exercise will be read and graded by your TF. In addition, all students' tenth Directed Exercise will be read by Tamar Gendler before the end of May.

One or more Exercises may be selected to serve as the basis for a future session of Philosophy and the Science of Human Nature. If your Exercise is selected for this role, you will be contacted directly by Tamar Gendler before the end of May to secure your explicit permission. (If you prefer that your Exercise not be considered for this possibility, just indicate so on your assignment when you hand it in.)

A number of model exercises from previous students have been posted on the V*2 site. Note that these models address a slightly different assignment (among other differences, they do not include (2)); **please use the instructions below as your guide.**

Instructions:

Your submission should take the form of a **Reading Guide**, loosely modeled on the Reading Guides you have received each week in the class. Your guide should include the following:

- (1) A **title** indicating the topic(s) that your week addresses.
- (2) A brief (2-5 sentence) **overview** of how you see the readings as fitting together. (Note: this is not something that is found on our actual reading guides.)
- (3) A **list of the readings** you will be assigning.
 - (a) Please choose **at least 2** and **no more than 4** readings **per class session**. (That is: a total of no fewer than 4 and no more than 8 assigned readings). If your readings would fit better distributed over three sessions (M, W, F) as opposed to two sessions (T, Th), feel free to provide a reading guide with that configuration. (In that case, you may have as many as 9 readings.) If you wish, you may divide your readings into Required and Recommended.
 - (b) Please include full bibliographic information for you readings (in any standard format): author, title, edition, publisher, publication year, page numbers, etc (as relevant.)
 - (c) Please provide a **link** to any readings that can be found on-line. If your reading is not available on-line, please be prepared to provide a **photocopy** of the reading if it is requested of you. (You will have at least 48 hours to do this, and we will provide you with access to no-cost photocopying.)

Then choose at least three of your readings, and provide the following for each of them.

[That is: you will be providing at least three instances of (4), and at least three instances of (6.)]

(4) 1-2 paragraphs of **background** about the author and the selection you have chosen.

(5) [Optional]

- Guidance to the reader about **passages to focus on/passages to skim**.
- A list of important **terms, concepts and examples**.

(6) A list of 3-6 **reading questions**.

[Posted 3/10/11]