

# IONA COLLEGE



## Philosophy 110: Introduction to Philosophy

### Section C

Spring 2012

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# Essay Questions

## 1 Instructions

The following questions will appear on the midterm and final exam, respectively.

## 2 Midterm exam essay question

Fire and Ice, by Robert Frost

Some say the world will end in fire,  
Some say in ice.  
From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favor fire.  
But if it had to perish twice,  
I think I know enough of hate  
To say that for destruction ice  
Is also great  
And would suffice.

Acquired 28 December 2011 from <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/fire-and-ice/>

The essay question, which makes reference to the poem above, asks the student to assess the following statement.

The Robert Frost poem expresses a profound truth: the world will end in either fire, or in ice.
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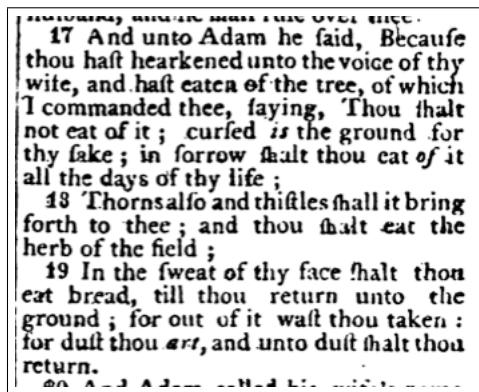
## 3 Final exam essay question

In the *Book of Common Prayer*, we find the following, offered as the coffin of the deceased is lowered into the ground.

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery.

He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

This prayer echoes Genesis 3:17–19. This is excerpted from an 1815 text of the King James *Bible* that belonged to a New Hampshire family and was deposited in the library of Bowdoin College, Maine.



Acquired January 2009, from <http://books.google.com/books?id=ygQVAAAAYAAJ>

This essay question, which makes reference to the two excerpts above, asks the student to assess the following statement, making reference to one philosopher from the first part of the course (before the midterm) and one from the second part of the course (after the midterm).

Philosophical theories aim to blunt the force of the troubling sentiments expressed in the passages from *The Book of Common Prayer* and Genesis 3:17-19 and, at least in some small measure, succeed at doing so.

The passages will be included with the midterm.