Midterm Exam
Religion and Science, REL 197
Spring 2007

The following exam is closed-book, but you may use one, 8.5x11 sheet of notes which you will turn in with your exam.

Answer the following three (3) questions in the bluebook provided. Each question is worth an equal number of points.

Answers will be graded on comprehensiveness (do you say as much as I could reasonably expect of you), accuracy, and clarity.

(1) Discuss Plato's conception of the gods, making particular reference to the ideas contained in the following passage:

> "When the father and creator saw the creature which he had made moving and living, the created image of the eternal gods, he rejoiced, and in his joy determined to make the copy still more like the original; and as this was eternal, he sought to make the universe eternal, so far as might be. Now the nature of the ideal being was everlasting, but to bestow this attribute in its fullness upon a creature was impossible. Wherefore he resolved to have a moving image of eternity, and when he set in order the heaven, he made this image eternal but moving according to number, while eternity itself rests in unity; and this image we call time."

You may make references to other passages in the *Timaeus*, but refer to other texts in passing if at all.

(2) What does Ptolemy assume about the readers of his *Tetrabiblos*? In answering this question, you should address the following points: (a) What relation does he believe exists between astrology and astronomy? (b) What kind of background knowledge does he assume on the part of his readers (please give some details here, rather than simply characterizing readers in a phrase or two)? (c) What attitude does he assume his readers will have towards the subject of astrology? Refer to passages in the text to support your position.

(3) What role(s) does God play in Newton's *De Gravitatione*? Consider passages from throughout the text. Feel free to make reference to the General Scholium to the *Principia* if you like, though this is not required.