Examination #4

Transition to Pragmatism [15 points]
1. What is constructive alternativism? What is the Fundamental Postulate? [4 points]

2. What is Pierce’s pragmatic maxim? [4 points]

3. Use the story from William James concerning the squirrel on the tree to illustrate Pierce’s maxim. [4 points]

4. Identify the three basic assumptions of unrepresentative realism. [3 points]
Introduction to Pragmatism [20 points]

1. What does it mean to say that a text deconstructs? Provide an example. [4 points]

2. Why does Cherryholmes believe that readings are always contested? How are such “contests” related to equivocality? [4 points]

3. Discuss the following statement from Cherryholmes: “tracing consequences is a cognitive, social, political, and artistic enterprise.” In the course of your discussion, please address each of the four characteristics of the enterprise (e.g., cognitive, social, etc.). [8 points]
4. What does it mean to say that pragmatism is fallible and contextual? [4 points]

Truth, Meaning, and Pragmatism [15 points]
1. According to the correspondence theory of truth when is something True? [1 point]

2. Provide an interpretation of the following figure taken from Cherryholmes: [8 points]
3. Discuss the relationship between truth and meaning posited by Cherryholmes. [6 points]

The Linguistic Turn [15 points]
1. What is the linguistic turn? What implications does it have for the scientific study of politics? [4 points]

2. Identify and discuss three issues that must be resolved in order to speak correctly about the world. [6 points]
3. Rorty says that it is possible to view social science as continuous with literature (fiction). What implications follow from viewing social science research as a story? [5 points]

Correct Inductive Inference [20 points]
1. What are the premises of the inductively correct argument? [9 points]
2. What is the conclusion of the inductively correct argument? [1 point]

3. Compare and contrast Type 1 and Type 2 errors. What is validity? [3 points]

4. Discuss the pragmatist approach to truth and science [7 points]
Course Overview [15 points]  W. V. O. Quine observes: “Each man is given a scientific heritage plus a continuing barrage of sensory stimulation; and the considerations which guide him in warping his scientific heritage to fit his continuing sensory promptings are, where rational, pragmatic.” Write a **five-paragraph** essay that provides an interpretative reading of Quine’s observation. The final paragraph should include a short discussion of the ways in which your interpretation is persuasive. I would suggest the following five paragraphs (although you are free to use your ingenuity and aesthetic faculties):

1. “Each person is given a scientific heritage”
2. “Each person has a continuing barrage of sensory stimulation”
3. “Considerations that guide a person in warping his scientific heritage to fit his sensory promptings”
4. “Where rational, pragmatic”
5. Conclusion – discuss why you believe your interpretation is persuasive