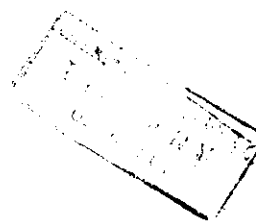


A.U.B.
1996-97



C.S. 202
SAMIRA KHOURY

FINAL INTERPRETATION EXERCISE

SATURDAY, JAN. 25, 1997

1400-1600

(2 HOURS)

OPEN BOOKS - OPEN NOTES - OPEN MINDS

REMEMBER:

- A: **QUALITY IS MORE CONVINCING THAN QUANTITY...**
B: **DON'T "TALK" WHEN YOU WRITE, INSTEAD: PRESENT A SYSTEMATICAL COHERENT ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS: WELL-DOCUMENTED WITH REFERENCES...**

ANSWER ONE QUESTION ONLY

I. "A SLAVE IS A HARDER MASTER THAN A FREEDMAN"

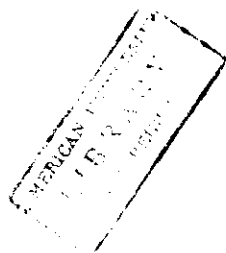
"I have never known a man behave arrogantly to his inferiors who did not humble himself to the same extent before his superiors". (Jahiz, p. 23).

1. Analyze critically Jahiz' opinion of such a man within the overall general context of his concept of man.
2. In which Canto in Dante's Purgatory would such a man reside? Justify your answer and state clearly Dante's judgement concerning such behaviour and its repercussions in Purgatory.
3. How would Machiavelli OR Ibn Khaldun evaluate such behaviour. Justify very briefly.
4. What is your OWN experience?

OR II: "PUPPET SHOWS AND SHAM FIGHTS"?

"It is all the same whether there are many councils or no councils. They only deceive us with puppet shows and sham fights. They fear terribly for their skin in a really free council!". (Luther, p. 3).

1. Identify clearly but briefly the reasons that led Luther to this conclusion, and his recommended solution.
2. Would Machiavelli approve of Luther's solution and recommend it to his "prince"? Why or why not?
3. If the ruler acts like "them" in this quotation, then the dynasty is in which stage according to Ibn Khaldun? Justify very briefly.
4. Conclude critically on the basis of your experience of such "puppet shows and sham fights".



OR III. INTERPRETATION

"They have no right to interpret Scripture merely by authority and without learning". (Luther. p. 11).

1. Analyze critically the underlying bases that led Luther to this conclusion with a brief discussion of the alternative recommended.
 2. React to the above quotation from the point of view of Ibn Rushd and Thomas Aquinas.
 3. Do not forget to specify, in each case, who the "they" are, and what "authority" and "learning" stand for.
 4. Evaluate and state your OWN opinion.
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OR IV. "PRESUMPTION.....IS THE MOTHER OF ERROR". (Aquinas, p. 7).

1. What concept of man does this quotation reveal, and how does it relate to Thomas Aquinas' main thesis?
 2. How would **TWO** (2) of the following authors analyze the above quotation within his own conceptual framework:
(a) Al-Ghazzali, (b) Ibn Rushd, (c) Ibn Tufayl, (d) Augustine.
 3. Do not forget to specify, in each case, the underlying thesis that led to your answer.
 4. Conclude and state your OWN opinion.
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OR V. THE TRUTH

"Do not know the truth by men, but rather, know the truth and you will know its adherents". (Al-Ghazzali, p. 7).

1. Analyze the above quotation within its context, with particular emphasis on its significance for Al-Ghazzali's attitude towards knowledge and seekers of the Truth.
 2. Respond to the above quotation from the point of view of two (2) of the following:
(a) Augustine, OR Aquinas, OR Luther, and (b) Ibn Rushd, OR Ibn Tufayl, OR Ibn Khaldun.
 3. Conclude by stating clearly the effects of this quotation on our human relations.
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OR VI. "Such things are instincts in you... This prime volition earns
nor praise nor blame". (Purgatory, Canto XVIII, 1.58-60)

1. Identify clearly what these "such things" are, and why they earn no praise or blame. (You may like to provide specific examples that clarify the ethical development of the above instincts", and their significance within Dante's concept of good and evil).
 2. Compare critically with Jahiz. (e.g. p. 8)
 3. Conclude and state your **OWN** opinion.
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G O O D L U C K!