

CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE 202

FINAL EXAMINATION

TIME: Two Hours

Jan. 25, 2000
Ms. R. Fakhry

I. Short-answer Questions

Comment briefly on three of the following statements/quotations, in light of your readings in this course:

1. Ibn Tufayl considers the Sufi experience impossible to achieve without the help of a master (murshid).
2. "The past resembles the future more than one drop of water another."
3. The state of blessedness, according to St. Augustine, is a state that places man outside time.
4. "...leadership exists only through superiority, and superiority only through group feeling."
5. "The proven fact is that civilization inevitably suffers losses through injustice and hostile acts, and it is the dynasty that suffers consequently."
6. "Good works do not make a good man, but a good man does good works; evil works do not make a wicked man, but a wicked man does evil works."

II. Choose one of the following three essay questions:

1. Many of the texts you have read this semester suggest that for a person to arrive at a knowledge of God, s/he must follow a carefully trodden path that s/he will quickly lose if s/he is not careful. Christianity and Islam suggest paths that are in some ways alike and in some ways different. Choose two texts (one Christian and one Muslim), and compare /contrast their authors' views regards the right path to God.

2. "If there's one thing I've learned from C.S. 202, it's that faith is not a simple concept. It's sometimes understood as a kind of blind trust, and sometimes thought of as an overwhelming spiritual experience. Some authors think of it as a set of beliefs to be embraced; others view it as a mysterious connection with God."

How accurate is this statement made by a (fictional) colleague of yours? How do three or more of our authors understand faith? Are they talking about the same thing?

3. Ibn Khaldun, Machiavelli, Dante and Luther all dealt with the connection between the state and the church. Discuss their views on this issue, indicating any similarities or differences amongst them. Which position best represents your views, and why?

III. Answer the following essay question: (Obligatory Question)

Both Machiavelli and Ibn Khaldun outline the desirable and necessary qualities in any leader for long and effective rule. Discuss the major similarities and differences between the two political models by referring to their unique goals.

IV. Bonus Question

You are a C.S. 202 teacher, and you are preparing an exam. Write two questions you would give your students.

What texts would you choose for the course, and why?

GOOD LUCK!