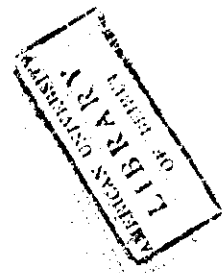
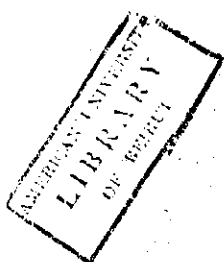


Part II.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE 202

FINAL WRITTEN INTERPRETATION EXERCISE

A.U.B.  
1999-2000  
1st. Semester

Jan. 15, 2000  
Samira Khoury

OPEN BOOKS - OPEN NOTES - OPEN MINDS

(TIME:  $1\frac{1}{2}$  HOURS)

~~ANSWER~~ ANSWER ONE QUESTION ONLY:

I. THE TRUTH

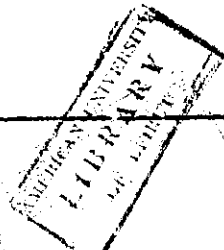
"Do not know the truth by men, but rather, know the truth and you will know its adherents". (Al-Ghazzali, p. 7).

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:  
~~OR~~ Augustine. OR Aquinas, OR Luther, OR Ibn Rushd, OR Ibn Tufayl, OR Ibn Khaldun.
3. Conclude by stating clearly the effects of this quotation on our human relations.

OR II 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 OR 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.



OR III.      "...God spoke... through an ass against a prophet...."

(Luther, p. 9).

1. Why does Luther quote this story of Balaam's ass? What does he aim at? What is the consequence of his argument and its significance?

{  
OR 2.  
OR 3.  
}

How would Al-Ghazali and/or Ibn Rushd evaluate Luther's attitude?

Compare critically with Aquinas' attitude.

4. Conclude and state your OWN opinion.

OR IV.      "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.

{  
OR 2.  
OR 3.  
}

Would Machiavelli approve of Luther's solution and recommend it to his "prince"? Why or why not?

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 V      "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.

OR VI. DREAMS      (Dream-State/Dream-Visions)

1. Analyze briefly and critically each reference to the dreams (within its context), by examining why and what for the dreams are referred to by TWO (2) of the following authors: (a) Al-Ghazali, (b) Dante, (c) Ibn Khaldun.
2. Comment comparatively on the role and function assigned to this human phenomenon of dreams (and its interpretation).
3. State your OWN opinion (attitude) concerning dreams.

Good Luck SK-houk