

American University of Beirut
School of Arts and Sciences
Beirut – Lebanon CVSP 202

Final Exam-Fall 2008
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- I- Comment on **four** of the following in the context of their author's texts and thinking .(one paragraph only-10-15 lines) (40 points)
- a- "The Word of God cannot be received and cherished by any works
Whatever, but only by faith."(Martin Luther, *Address to the German Nobility*)
 - b- "...two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self..." (St Augustine, *City of God*)
 - c- "They(the philosophers who apply logic) draw up a list of the conditions to be fulfilled by demonstration which are known without fail to produce certainty. When, however, they come at length to treat of religious questions, not merely are they unable to satisfy these conditions, but they admit an extreme degree of relaxation"(al Ghazali, *Deliverance from Error*)
 - d- "master your feelings, listen to my words, and you shall learn just how My buried flesh was meant to guide you in another way."(Dante, *The Divine Comedy*)
 - e- "Therefore allegorical interpretations ought to be set down only in demonstrative books, because if they are in demonstrative books they are encountered by no men but men of the demonstrative class.." Ibn Rushd (*Decisive Treatise*)
 - f- "It should be known that history, in matter of fact, is information about human social organization, which itself is identical with world civilization..." (Ibn Khaldun, *The Muquaddimah*)

II-Write a well developed essay on **one** of the following questions: (60 points)

- a- According to Machiavelli the prince should see thing as they are and not as they are imagined.

- 1- Explain this statement in the context of Machiavelli's pragmatic philosophy of politics.
- 2- how is this statement based on Machiavelli's conception of man?
- 3- How are the ideas presented in Machiavelli similar to or different from Ibn Khaldun's ideas in "al Muquaddimah" and in Tahir ben al Hussain's letter to his son ?
- 4- Which of the two authors(Ibn Khaldun or Machiavelli) you tend to agree with and why?

b-Dante's vision of man is" a harmonious blend of Rational Man and the man of Faith , grace and Love ".

- 1- Explain this statement in the context of the *Divine Comedy* .
- 2- What is the role of Virgil and Beatrice in Dante's vision?
- 3- What is the significance of "Limbo" in this vision?
- 4- How would you relate the themes in the Divine Comedy to the texts we have studied this semester (Choose one text only)

Good Luck!