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SPRING 2004-2005

JUNE 9, 2005

CVSP 202, SECTIONS 5, 6 & 7 (Hani Hassan)

FINAL WRITTEN EVALUATION

2 HOURS & 30 MINUTES & 25 SECONDS



BASIC CRITERIA OF EVALUATION:

CLARITY OF PRESENTATION: this includes handwriting (since I am not an expert in deciphering coded messages); but more importantly, it is an issue of you clearly presenting your ideas, avoiding any vagueness and/or ambiguity.

EXPLANATION AND JUSTIFICATION: never assume I know what you're talking about; it is very essential that you back up any central statements you make in presenting the ideas of the authors in question, and more importantly in your critical evaluation of those ideas.

RELEVANCE: it is essential that you present ideas and arguments relevant to the questions asked. Going into irrelevant discussion is a waste of your valuable time; it could also cause the reader (yours truly) to lose sight of the relevant discussions you present.

CRITICAL THINKING: this is most important in terms of your critical evaluation discussions; it is vital that you present 'evidence' of critical thinking, and not simply agreeing or disagreeing with ideas and authors discussed (simply stating: "I don't like him" or "I love his ideas" is neither evidence of being critical nor of thinking!)

WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT SIMPLY SUMMARIZE!

If at any point you are not clear about what the question is asking or of what is required of you, do not hesitate to ask me. But whatever you do, do not ask your fellow students (they will always mislead you by giving you the wrong answer; it's human nature!)

Finally, and putting it as plainly as I can:

CHEATING IS ABSOLUTELY DISGRACEFUL; OFFENDERS WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED.



Part I – Dante, Ibn Khaldun and Machiavelli

A. Short answer questions (10 %): Very briefly, what is the meaning and significance of the following for their respective authors?

- i. Rational love
- ii. Assabiyah (group feeling)
- iii. Beatrice
- iv. The fox and the Lion



B. Essay question (60 %):

Clearly identify and present what you believe to be the **most central and important aspects** of Dante's *Purgatory*, and Machiavelli's *Prince* (in respect with furthering our understanding of ourselves as humans, as rational beings, moral beings, socio-political beings...). (In other words, what are the most central, significant and relevant ideas and notions proposed by each author in their respective works?)

Critical evaluation:

"Man is a child of the customs and the things he has become used to. He is not the product of his natural disposition and temperament." (Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqaddimah*)

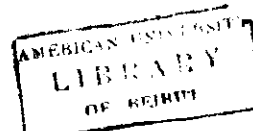
"One can make this generalization about men: they are ungrateful, fickle [i.e. inconsistent], liars, and deceivers, they shun danger and are greedy for profit." (Machiavelli, *The Prince*)

Critically reflect upon the above two statements, **clearly presenting your critical opinion** of the ideas put forth in them and the consequences that follow from accepting these ideas. Basically: which one of these two quotes do you favor? Justify your answer (in terms of why you agree with one and not the other, or neither, or perhaps a mixture of both...)

Part II – General Overview (30 %):

THE DECISIVE TREATISE TOWARDS THE DELIVERANCE FROM HUMAN FOLLY

You have been asked to write a book aimed at the enlightenment of your fellow citizens of the 21st century on matters of seeking, reaching, and understanding the Truth, and on matters of spiritual and socio-political salvation. You have also been asked to include in your book **at least three** of the authors we have covered over the past semester. Which three would you choose? **Clearly present and justify your answer** in light of what the work aims to achieve.



Whishing all the best on all your finals and all your future endeavors...