|  |
| --- |
| **Instructions' guide for the Final Exam [150 minutes]**  |

**Part I**: *Choose* **1** *passage & do the following to it:*

**[41points: a:** 25%, **b:** 16% **/** time: **60 minutes]**

**a. Thematic interpretation: Identify & explain 2 major themes from the selected passage.** *(Be sure to support each theme with relevant citations from the passage.)*

Here, you are required to filter out the main ideas in the selected passage and ***group them under major concepts* *or themes*** [e.g. justice, reverence…etc.] and explain each one of them.

· Read the whole passage first, then carefully specify the major themes found in the passage you've chosen, explain them **next**, and **lastly** provide strong and relevant **textual evidences** to support each theme from the **selected passage**.

· **Try to identify 2 to 3 major themes found in the passage to have a high grade.** Remember that themes may include also the argumentative method(s) used by each specific philosopher to analyze and prove his ideas. As for literary styles, they are only minor themes.

**Example:**

**[Theme #1]:** (i) a meaningful and relevant title. (ii) A **balanced** explanation of this theme which proves that you've really understood it. Lastly, (iii) the supporting references from the text.

**[Theme #2]:** (i) a meaningful and relevant title. (ii) A **balanced** explanation of this theme ..., (iii) the supporting references from the text.

**Note: It is safer to give 3 themes instead of 2 only.**

**b. Explain how the content of this passage relates to the main subject of the book.** *(You should explain the* ***main subject*** *separately& show in a* ***thoughtful*** *& logical way how the themes relate to it.)*

Here, you are required to explain how the content of the selected passage fits into the wider context of the book it was taken from.

**First,** **thoughtfully explain**—**beyond what gave you in class**—**the** **main subject** **of the book** from which the selected passage is taken. You can prepare this part in your mind at home.

**Then,** explain in a **thoughtful &logical way** how each of the themes you mentioned above (i.e. in **a**) **relates or contributes** to the main subject of the book. To answer this question, ask yourself: *why the author needed to write (or add) this specific theme in the book*? In short, you are required to explain how these **parts** relate to the **whole**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Passage #1  | Plato  |
| Passage #2  | Aristotle  |
| Passage #3  | Lucretius  |

**Part II: The essay question:**

The essay question is about some important and related general themes common to the books you've chosen. Possible themes are: Nature of Man, theory of knowledge, the origin & nature of justice, and the good life. You should discuss these2 themes as treated in **each of the 3 books**, showing in due course how they relate to each other.

In addition, **you should critically evaluate the views presented in the 3 books:** whether you find them plausible and relevant to our life or not; and support your opinions with informed and logical arguments. The answer should take the form of **one** well-organized (introduction, body, conclusion), **informative**, & **critical** essay.

Your essay should **include at least 9 relevant quotations** as textual evidence from all 3 books. **Textual citations form an essential component in your essays** & prove to me that you have understood the text you are supposed to read. **The link should be clear and direct.**

You are expected to **use concise and straightforward language** in expressing your ideas and arguments.

**The essay should cover ideas from all 3 books you chose:** 2 philosophers: **1 Greek**: Plato **or** Aristotle, and **1 Roman**: Lucretius, and 1 poet (either Homer, or Sophocles or the author of Gilgamesh, etc…)**.**

**[59points:** content: 35%, organization: 5%, **text citations: 18%** / time: **90 minutes]**

**Important Notes:**

1. **Relevant ideas increase your grades, irrelevant ideas decrease them.** It is not about how much you write, but the quality and relevance of what you write. **This means you should be thoughtful, direct to the point, and complete**.

2. This is a written exam. **Never assume that I can guess what you have in mind** when you are explaining any concept or theme, but rather pretend that you are explaining it to an un-informed reader (i.e. he depends only on what you write for understanding the ideas presented in the essay).

3. **The exam is open-book, but not open-notes**. **Certainly, books should not include any class notes, this will be considered cheating.**

4. **The Exam consists of 2 parts. Answer each part on a new page.**

**Clear Handwriting:** Write in a readable way since you have enough time to do this. You can easily do this if you write in a moderate pace. I am not supposed nor will attempt to decode unclear words.

 **Bonus questions:** (very brief answers) Answers should be no more than 3 lines & should be very precise. To be done only after you finish the 2 main parts of the exam.

**The 3 general subjects required for the essay question in the final exam of CVSP 201:**

I will offer in the final exam two of the following subjects for the comprehensive essay question. You will be asked to choose only 1 of them. Thus, you are encouraged to prepare the ideas and quotations for 2 subjects before next Wednesday for it is certain that one of them will come in the exam.

1. Justice (Divine, Political and Moral): What is the form of justice, its origin, and significance in life of individual human being and society, given the nature of existence and Man? You essay should cover the following topics as discussed by each of the 3 authors you choose: The nature of existence & man [minor theme], and how these 2 concepts defined the different forms of justice, its origin, and significance in the life of individual human beings and society?

2. The Ultimate (final) Destiny of Man and Society: What is the ultimate destiny of human beings, societies, and the World given the Nature of Existence and Man? Your essay should cover the following topics as discussed by each of the 3 authors you choose: 1) the nature of Existence and Man [major theme], and how these 2 concepts defined the different views regarding the ultimate destiny of individual human beings, societies, and the World [major theme]?

3. The Good Life (happy life): What is the best way to live given the true nature of Man? Your essay should cover the following topics as discussed by each of the 3 authors you choose: 1) The nature of man and existence [minor theme], 2) the highest good in life [minor theme], and 3) the best way to live so to reach this highest good: the physically pleasant, the noble, the contemplative?

**Important Notes:**

a. The sub-themes in each subject are connected, so you don't need to discuss them separately, but rather weave them together following their logical interrelations.

b. You should **discuss** the different views of each of the 3 authors, and not only explain them.

c. Your essay should cover ideas from all 3 books you choose: 2 philosophers: 1 Greek: Plato or Aristotle, and 1 Roman: Lucretius, and 1 poet (either Homer, or Sophocles or the author of Gilgamesh, etc…).

d. When I ask in the 3 essays about the importance or significance of something in the life of man and society, this means what benefit we'll have from having it, and what is the consequence of not having it.

e. When I ask about the way of life, remember this directly relates to our **activities**, the things we seek in life, and care about (wealth, power, office, fame, physical pleasure, true knowledge, etc...) A way of life means how **one conducts** his life, what actions he should seek and those he should avoid. Should one focus his effort in life on seeking fame, or on maximizing pleasure, or on practicing justice, or reaching true knowledge, etc...?

f. You can find Plato’s view on the nature of existence (physical/ non-physical and physical) in the 3rd and 4th reading selections on the syllabus, esp. in the simile of the Sun and the Simile of the Cave, and the resource found on Moodle relating to the method of using examples. As for his views on the nature of Man, you can find it in the part he discusses the elements of the soul and other parts relating to the human soul.

g. Whether there is Order in the Universe and its kind are essential elements in understanding the Nature of Existence.

The **Final Exam** of CVSP **201** sections (1 & 2) will be held on **Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 10 am in Nicely 415.** Its duration is **180 minutes. Find below the required material for the final exam:**

**For the quotations in Part 1: Text analysis**

1. **Plato**'s Republic
2. **Aristotle**'s Nicomachean Ethics (Make sure to have the new edition and not the old one with you so to be able to find the quotation)
3. **Lucretius**: The Nature of Things
(Note that you need to have the selected material specified on moodle with you during the Final exam, which are not found in the photocopied selection found in the shops around AUB)

**You will be given 3 passages, each by one of the 3 philosophers. You have to choose only one of them to address in your exam.**

**For the essay question in Part 2:**

Your final essay should cover ideas from 3 books you chose according to the following criteria: **2 philosophers and 1 poet.
2 philosophers:** 1 Greek: Plato **or** Aristotle, and 1 Roman: **Lucretius**,
**+ only 1 poet**: either Homer, **or** Sophocles **or** the author of Gilgamesh, etc…).

So basically, you need to study at least 1 of the previous poets mentioned above, in addition to the 3 philosophers required for Part 1; unless you saw it safer to prepare 2 poets.