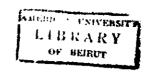
CVSP 201 (section 13) 31 January, 2003 Mark Bayer



## FINAL EXAMINATION

## PART I

Define four of the following terms or concepts (2.5 marks each for a total of ten)

**EPIC** 

ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE

ORAL TRADITON

SOCRATIC METHOD

CARPE DIEM

## **PART II**

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Write two essays, responding to two of the three topics below. (ten marks each for a total of twenty)

- 1) Epic poetry is often understood as engaging with, explicating, and propagating the most salient cultural values from which it emanates. Since these predominant values tend to shift over time, epics might be taken as succinct markers of ways in which cultural predispositions and general notions concerning human nature change. Write a coherent essay in which you describe cultural change as it pertains to widely held societal and individual values in the progression of epics that we studied in class. Be sure to discuss all three of Gilgamesh, The Odyssey and The Aeneid in your response, backing up your general claims with evidence from the texts as much as possible.
- Tragedy. . . openeth the greatest wounds, and showeth forth the ulcers that are covered with tissue [and] teacheth the uncertainty of this world, and upon how weak foundations gilden roofs are builded.

Philip Sidney, A Defence of Poetry (1582)

Discuss the above quotation describing the cultural logic of tragedy with reference to the two tragedies we've encountered in this course, Sophocles' <u>Oedipus Rex</u> and Book IV of Virgil's <u>Aeneid</u> (The Dido episode). As always, be sure to back up your general claims with evidence from the text.

The goods which define our spiritual [or philosophical] orientation are the ones by which we will measure the worth of our lives; the two issues are indissolubly linked because they relate to the same core.

Charles Taylor, Sources of the Self

Discuss competing visions of the good life and how they structure the most general goals and orientations of society in any two of <u>The Trial and Death of Socrates</u>, Plato's <u>Republic</u>, Arisototle's <u>Nichomachean Ethics</u>, or Lucretius' <u>On the Nature of the Universe</u>. What are the culminating goals of human personhood according to each system and how best might we achieve them, according to these writers?