



FINAL EXAM-CVSP 201

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May 31, 2004

TIME ALLOWED: 2.5 hrs. max.

Texts Read:

Gilgamesh, The Odyssey, Oedipus, The King, The Peloponnesian War, The Apology, The Republic, The Ethics, On the Nature of the Universe, The Aeneid

Directions:

Choose **ONE** of the following five comparative essay questions. You need **3 texts** for whichever question you choose. Make sure to have a **thesis** in a **complete, original, and informed** essay, with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Please proofread carefully!
GOOD LUCK!

1. Discuss the concept and practice of **duty**. How would you describe the relationship between the agent (in the form of a god or the rational mind) issuing the command and the human being executing it? What is the role of personal conviction, if any, in the matter?
2. What is **happiness** according to Lucretius, Aristotle, and Plato? And what is its relationship to **virtuous behavior**?
3. Compare and contrast Dido, Kalypso, and the harlot as **three women** with whom the respective heroes, Aeneas, Odysseus, and Gilgamesh, engage in a sexual act. Consider the following: purpose, duration of relationship, effect on both, etc.
4. Compare three distinct views on **death and/or the afterlife** (as sometimes illustrated in the Underworld). What do they inform us about life on earth?
5. Virgil, Lucretius, and Aristotle have very different notions of **fate or predetermination versus human free will**. Compare and contrast!