

SUMMER 2006-2007

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007

CVSP 201, SECTION 4 (Hani Hassan)

FINAL WRITTEN EVALUATION

3 HOURS

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.

All the Best...

PART I: THE GOOD LIFE AND LIVING GOOD...

(65%)

Long after his death, Aristotle wanders around Hades looking for Plato as he felt they still had some unfinished business, when he stumbles Lucretius elaborating to a number of others the central ideas of the attainment of the happy life in accordance with Epicurean principles.

A. Clearly present the central ideas and principles towards the attainment of the good life as would have been elaborated by Lucretius to his attentive listeners.

B. As soon as Lucretius ends his eloquent presentation, Aristotle comments saying: “You have said much of the life lived towards pleasure, but in all you’ve said I heard little of the life of happiness.”

Clearly explain Aristotle’s comment from within the context of his discussion of the attainment of the happy life (in relation to moral virtue).

PART II: YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS TO TODAY’S QUESTIONS?

(35%)

It may be claimed that every single author and text we have encountered in our journey through that distant past are very much alive and relevant to our direct present, in relation to the ideas, themes, and visions they tackle and discuss.

Clearly present your critical reflection upon the above claim. In other words: as a 21st century citizen, to what extent (if any) would you agree that these authors and ideas of the past could be considered still very much alive and relevant in a discussion on our present day human condition? To what extent (if any) do we share their concerns and discussions, or are we perhaps today faced with new and different problematics? Are these visions of the past perhaps now long dead, and we find ourselves in need of new philosophies and discussions to address our contemporary world view? Make reference to at least three authors/characters to support and illustrate your discussion.

Be frank, be critical, enjoy...