



FALL 2004-2005

JANUARY 26, 2004

CVSP 205, SECTIONS 1&2 (Hani Hassan)

FINAL WRITTEN EVALUATION

THREE 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: St. Augustine, al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd

a. In his work, *Deliverance from Error*, al-Ghazali shares with his readers his path towards the attainment of Truth (understood as God), through a presentation and a discussion of his journey “*from the plain of naive and second-hand belief (taqlid) to the peak of direct vision.*”

Clearly present the central elements of this journey in his essay in connection to Theology, Philosophy and Sufism (no need to discuss the section on the *Batinites* or Authoritative Teaching). In other words, how does al-Ghazali evaluate these paths in relation to his quest of the attainment of Truth (understood as God)? Which of these (if any) is most helpful in steering us towards God, and which (if any) may actually lead us away from God? ...etc.

b. Imagine that St. Augustine and Ibn Rushd were to read al-Ghazali's *Deliverance From Error*. How would each of them react and evaluate al-Ghazali's work? Where would they agree with him and where would they disagree (hint: keep in mind mostly al-Ghazali's discussion on the relation of Philosophy to Religion, and the experiential aspect of Sufism). In other words: present a critical evaluation of al-Ghazali's work based on St. Augustine's discussion in his *Confessions* and Ibn Rushd's arguments in *The Decisive Treatise*.

## Part II.

The Decisive 21<sup>st</sup> Century Guide to the Deliverance from Human Folly  
and Towards the Excellence of Human Virtue!

As a 21<sup>st</sup> century citizen, imagine you were asked to put together a book aimed at the betterment of the human condition and the enlightenment of human kind; and suppose further that you were asked to refer to at least three of the works/authors we've covered throughout the semester (excluding Augustine, al-Ghazali, and Ibn Rushd!) Which three would you choose to include? Clearly justify your answer in light of their contribution to a better understanding of our human essence and our basic humanity, and in view of what they offered towards the betterment of our human condition on the level of justice and morality?

