



**Civilization Sequence 204  
Final Examination**

**Time: 2 hours**

**June 13, 2005  
Prof. Nassar**

**PART ONE: (30%)**

**Choose TWO of the following quotations. In each case, (1) Explore the main ideas in the quotation (2) Link one of those ideas to another idea you have come across this semester.**

1. This crisis too (the killing of Abbas by British soldiers), like all the others, finally subsided and the alley returned to its usual state of indifference and forgetfulness. (Mahfouz, Midaq Alley)
2. Though I had not intended to, I said to her, "Wad Rayyes wants to marry you. Your father and brothers don't object. He asked me to talk to you on his behalf."  
  
She was silent for so long that I was on the point of getting up to leave. At last, though, I became aware of her voice in the darkness like the blade of a knife. "If they force me to marry, I'll kill him and kill myself." (Salih, Season of Migration to the North)
3. Jean Morris pointed to a rare Arabic manuscript on the table. "Give me this too," she said. My throat grew dry with a thirst that almost killed me. I must quench it with a drink of icy water. I nodded my head in agreement. Taking up the old, rare manuscript she tore it to bits, filling her mouth with pieces of paper which she chewed and spat out. It was as though she had chewed at my very liver. And yet I didn't care. (Salih, Season of Migration to the North)

**PART TWO: (70%)**

**Write a complete. Well-developed, and well-organized essay on the following topic:**

The absurdity of human life is a major theme in C.S. 204. Explore this theme in three or more of the authors you have read this semester. You may choose authors that challenged this idea ---such as Nietzsche or Mahfouz---as well as those who supported it, but be careful to treat the subject in depth and to avoid superficiality. Make specific references to the chosen texts. Give your own opinion.

**GOOD LUCK!**

