

SUMMER 2007-2008

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2008

CVSP 203, SECTIONS 2 & 3 (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 (20%)**

**MARXIST TELEOLOGY?**

“What the bourgeoisie, therefore, produces, above all, is **its own grave-diggers**. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally **inevitable**.” (*The Communist Manifesto*, page 16)

**Briefly but clearly** present the meaning and significance of the above claim within the context of a Marxist understanding of history. In other words: how is it that the bourgeoisie produces its own grave-diggers? How and why should such an event be inevitable? ..etc

**PART II (60%)**

**KANT’S MORAL MAN AND GOETHE’S FAUSTIAN MAN:**

**A.** **Clearly present and identify** the central elements of the Kantian Man and the Faustian Man as encountered in Kant’s *The Grounding of a Metaphysics of Morals* and Goethe’s *Faust*. In other words: based on Kant’s discussion and Goethe’s vision in their works, what are the basic elements and the resulting visions of the human in his/her fulfillment of their very humanity? What is the human at his/her most excellent? In each vision, how is the human’s relation to other humans presented or portrayed? ...etc. Highlight any similarities and/or differences one encounters between the two authors.

**B.** **Present your own critical evaluation of the two views of the Human** encountered in the works of Kant and Goethe discussed above. In other words, which of the two do you find is the more appropriate vision in view of the fulfillment of our very humanity, and in light of fully expressing our very essence? **Clearly justify your response and critical analysis.**

**PART III (20%)**

**TOWARDS A POSTMODERN ENLIGHTENMENT?**

Imagine that today, as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century citizen, you were asked to put together a work aimed towards the **enlightenment and betterment of your fellow humans and society as a whole**; and imagine further that you were asked to include in your work four authors from those we have covered over the semester. Which four would you choose and why? **Clearly and critically justify your response** in view of what the authors of your choice had to offer, the themes they presented and discussed, and in light of our modern day world-view and human condition.

(Make sure you do not simply summarize the themes and authors of your choice, but you more importantly provide clear reasons and illustrations of how and where they may be relevant and applicable within the context of our current existence)

*Wishing you all the best on all your finals  
and all your future endeavours...*