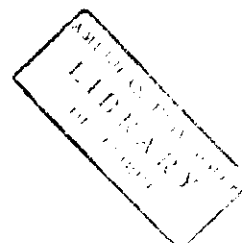




CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE 203
FINAL EXAMINATION



TIME: 2 Hours.

Jan. 25, 1996
O. Arabi

ANSWER ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

"Because the necessities of action often oblige us to make a decision before we have had the leisure to examine things so carefully, it must be admitted that the life of man is very often subject to error; and we must, in conclusion, recognize the infirmity and weakness of our nature. " (Descartes)

- a) Contrast the above statement of Descartes with his theory of certainty. What part of human knowledge is certain? What part uncertain? Does the certainty in one domain seem to eliminate the uncertainty in the other domain according to Descartes?
- b) Do we, in the twentieth century, still face the same problem of action described by Descartes in the above quotation? Is there a way of totally escaping from error in our actions?
Is there a way of reducing error in human action: What is this way and what are its limitations? Discuss, giving your opinion and support for that opinion.
- c) Who, among the authors we studied in C.S. 203, answers most to your concerns and worries? Justify your choice showing the relevance of your preferred author to contemporary life.

