

SUMMER 2006-2007

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2007

CVSP 203, 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. KANTIAN CATEGORICALS AND FAUSTIAN HYPOTHETICALS... ?

(60%)

Long after their death, and somewhere in the netherworld, Faust is strolling around aimlessly when he stumbles upon Kant explaining to Mephisto the very essence of the Kingdom of ends where all rational beings are no less than ends in themselves.

A. Clearly present the central ideas and principles underlying the foundations of Kant's Moral Utopia (the Kingdom of Ends) as illustrated in his work *Grounding for a Metaphysics of Morals*.

B. As Kant concludes his presentation, Faust smirks and mutters: "Achieving such an end would be the end of all ends".

Clearly present the meaning of Faust's remark within the context of a Faustian vision of the fulfillment of human life and the attainment of human excellence.

PART II. AN EXERCISE IN POST-MODERN EVALUATION (CRITICAL OVERVIEW):

(40%)

The following two statements may be taken as brackets of sorts within which lay our readings and discussions over the course of the semester:

"'Tis new to thee."

(Prospero responding to Miranda's joy at witnessing a 'brave new world' before her; Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Act V, Scene 1)

"And so I sit, poor silly man,
No wiser now than when I began."

(Faust offering a one sentence summary of sorts to his condition after having concluded his studies of all that a human could hope to study; Goethe's *Faust, Part One*, Scene 4)

Making clear reference to at least four of the authors we have covered over the semester, critically evaluate and reflect upon the above two statements both from a personal perspective and a more global perspective. **In other words:**

- On a personal level: having encountered all the various authors, readings, and discussions over the course of the semester, do you (as a 21st Century citizen) feel as Faust did 'no wiser now than when you began'?
- On a global level: with the scientific revolution behind us, along with the Age of Modernity, The Age of Enlightenment, and Romanticism, are we as humans and human societies no wiser now than ever? Can you imagine Prospero in our present day still insisting that it is no brave new world? Do Mephisto's words still echo as he proclaims to the Lord that man is as "Ridiculous as ever, as in his first days."? (*Faust, Part I*, Scene 3, Prologue in Heaven)

Be frank, be critical, enjoy...

Second Written Evaluation question:

In the context of a discussion concerning political philosophy, an anarchist (anarchism literally means the absence of rules and rulers) may claim that human beings need no higher authority to rule over them, but that rather humans attain the best state of existence when they attain freedom from all forms of governance, rule and law.

Making reference to and drawing upon **either Thomas Hobbes or John Locke**, present a critical response to the anarchist claim summarized above.

(note: in reality, no singular statement could summarize the claim to anarchism, as there are countless forms of this political philosophy; however, for the sake of the discussion, kindly assume that the above is a somewhat accurate representation of the central ideas behind the anarchist doctrine.)