



Civilization Sequence 206  
Final Exam

Time: 2 hours

June 2004  
Prof. Mona Amyuni

**The Exam is in two parts:**

**Part I:** Analyze in a brief paragraph the following excerpts and what they aim at showing: Give your own opinion (when you have one) on the excerpts (50%)

1. **Bacon:** "The men of experiment are like the ant, they only collect and use; the reasoners resemble spiders, who make cobwebs out of their own substance. But the bee takes a middle course: it gathers its material from the flowers of the garden... but transforms and digests it by a power of its own." (XCV, p. 93)
2. **Descartes:** We should never allow ourselves to be persuaded except by the evidence of our reason.
3. **Kant:** What is Kant's categorical imperative. To what vision of Man and the World would it lead if properly applied?
4. **Faust:** What is the compact/wager that Faust signs with Mephistopheles? What is its vision of Faustian man?
5. What according to Kant, is to be enlightened? Are we enlightened today?

**Part II:** Choose one of the 2 topics (50%)

- I. **On Women:** Nietzsche writes in Beyond Good & Evil:  
Woman wants to be independent...this is one of the worse developments in the general uglification of Europe...in the worst of taste...woman sets about becoming scientific...Enlightenment in this field has hitherto been the affair and endowment of men...

2. Freud writes in Civilization and Its Discontents:

Women soon come into opposition to civilization and display their retarding and restraining influence...[women are little capable] to carry out instinctual sublimations.

3. Simone de Beauvoir writes in The Other Sex:

The quarrel will go on as long as men and women fail to recognize each other as peers; that is to say, as long as femininity is perpetuated as such. Which sex is the more eager to maintain it? Woman, who is being emancipated from it, wishes none the less to retain its privileges; and man, in that case, wants her to assume its limitations. "It is easier to accuse one sex than to excuse the other," says Montaigne. It is vain to apportion praise and blame. The truth is that if the vicious circle is so hard to break, it is because the two sexes are each the victim at once of the other and of itself. Between two adversaries confronting each other in their pure liberty, an agreement could be easily reached: the more so as the war profits neither. But the complexity of the whole affair derives from the fact that each camp is giving aid and comfort to the enemy; woman is pursuing a dream of submission, man a dream of identification. Want of authenticity does not pay: each blames the other for the unhappiness he or she has incurred in yielding to the temptations of the easy way; what man and woman loathe in each other is the shattering frustration of each one's own had faith and baseness.

- *Explain and analyze each of the 3 excerpts.*
- *Compare and contrast the 3 positions by Nietzsche, Freud and Beauvoir.*
- *In your conclusion, give your own sincere opinion on the subject at hand.*

**OR**

II. Discuss the following excerpt from Season of Migration to The North:

The fact that they came to our land I know not why, does that mean that we should poison our present and our future? Sooner or later they will leave our country, just as many people throughout history left many countries. The railways, ships, hospitals, factories and schools will be ours and we'll speak their language without either a sense of guilt or a sense of gratitude. Once again we shall be as we were –ordinary people- and if we are lies we shall be lies of our own making.

- *Analyze its main components.*
- *Link it to the main themes of the novel.*

- What is Tayeb Salih's essential vision of history as reflected in this excerpt?
- What is your own vision on the subject?

*Note please that you will be graded according to the following criteria:*

- *focused and pertinent answer,*
- *precise and correct expression,*
- *substantial information, no major elements should be missing,*
- *good analysis and critique,*
- *a well built composition is highly appreciated.*