

FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

Fall 2019

HUM 2051 Western Civilization I

Dr. Rosiene

A. ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL COMPARISONS AND CONTRASTS

1. Examine MARITAL RELATIONS in an ancient and a medieval literary text. What is the proper role of a husband, of a wife? What are the social purposes of marriage? What roles does sexuality play in marriage? How does Christianity influence the changes from ancient to medieval concepts of marriage?
2. We have discussed the roles of women in the ancient and medieval world, but what of MEN? Examine how the masculine is defined in an ancient and a medieval text. What roles do men play in society, in domestic life? Who is a noble man, a pious man? Who is a strong man, a just man, a wise man, a modest man? How does Christianity influence the changes from ancient to medieval concepts of manhood?
3. Examine the INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUMANS AND GOD(S) in an ancient and a medieval text. Where and when do humans interact with God(s)? What is the interaction between them? How do they interact? Why do they interact? Do some humans have special relationships with God(s)? What makes them privileged? How does Christianity influence the changes from ancient to medieval methods of interaction with God(s)?

B. MEDIEVAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. REAL AND IDEAL CHURCH: Despite numerous attempts to reform the Church during the medieval period, criticism of Church practices and their practitioners continued throughout. How do Peire Cardenal, Dante, Boccaccio, and Chaucer define corrupt Church practices? Whom do they consider to be corrupt practitioners? Who do they believe lives in accordance with Christian ideals?
5. MEDIEVAL CHARACTER: Imagine yourself as a member of Early (476-1050), High (1050-1300) or Late (1300-1453) medieval society. Where and when do you live? Are you a member of the church, the nobility, the peasantry, or the bourgeoisie? How do you live your daily life? Who are your friends and neighbors? Use facts from the history and the literature to construct a detailed answer.
6. MEDIEVAL SENSUALITY: Umberto Eco has written:

The view that the Middle Ages were puritanical, in the sense of rejecting the sensuous world, ignores the documentation of the period and shows a basic misunderstanding of the medieval mentality.

Examine portrayals of the sensuous world in the troubadours, Dante's *Inferno*, and Boccaccio's and Chaucer's tales. Who rejects sensuality? How and why is sensuality rejected? Does the rejection of sensuality have a broad impact upon medieval society, or are the effects limited to certain subcultures? Who accepts the sensuous world? Can they accept sensuality without rejecting Church teachings? If so, how? If not, why not?