

HUI216, Final exam — May 15, 2006

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS!**  
**DO NOT OPEN THE EXAM UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO...**

Please make sure that your beeper and/or cell phone are turned off and stored away, out of sight. This applies also to iPods, PDAs, and all portable electronic devices.

Fill in your NAME and IDENTIFICATION NUMBER on the scantron form before starting.

There are 36 multiple-choice questions and 4 short-answer questions in this exam: each is worth 2.8 points. Partial credit is available for the short-answer questions. Multiple-choice answers must be filled in on the scantron form with a black #2 pencil. Short-answer questions must be written on the exam, with a pen.

Scantron forms and exams will be collected together. You have approximately one hour and forty minutes to finish the exam.

You are not allowed to ask any questions during the exam. If you need assistance (for example, if your pen stops working or you don't have a pencil), raise your hand.

You cannot leave the room until you have handed in the exam.

When you are ready to hand in the exam, get up and form a line on the right side of the classroom. Please have your ID card ready. Remember that once you get up to hand in the exam, you cannot go back to your seat and you cannot write anything on your exam or the scantron form. If there are 10-12 people waiting in line, please remain seated until the line gets shorter. Please leave the room quietly, trying not to disturb those who are still working on the exam.

1. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the ancient Romans and religion:

- A) Ethics and ethical behaviors in Roman society were supported by religious practices and rules; social values and the law had a much more limited influence on moral choices made by the individuals
- B) Individuals in Roman society, beside using apotropaic formulae and gestures, prayed often and intensely during their daily lives
- C) Individuals in Roman society would routinely sacrifice small animals in the temples, to thank the gods or in exchange for their protection and favors**
- D) The Romans were eclectic and superstitious, but only rarely accepted and recognized gods from other religions

2. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the religious practices of the Romans:

- A) In the description of a harvest ritual written by Cato the Elder, the Roman farmer is invited to sacrifice a pig, before the harvest, and to offer prayers, food and wine to Janus and Jupiter
- B) Actual temple inscriptions from antiquity contained questions about the future and expressed gratitude for things as different as the birth of a child or a reduction in their taxes
- C) Certificates of sacrifices were released by Greek and Roman temples during the time of the empire, when it became necessary to prove one's loyalty to traditional cults and religions approved by the Emperors
- D) All of the above**

3. The Roman poet Lucretius was one of the Latin poets who had a great influence on Western culture and literature. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

- A) He thought that gods existed in space, between the planets, and that gods deeply cared about the humans, punishing them for bad behavior and rewarding them for their good deeds, in life and after death
- B) His poem *On the Nature of Things* was written to entertain the readers with a piece of aesthetically beautiful literature; it was not really a didascalic poem, composed to teach about nature and the universe
- C) Lucretius believed that everything in nature is the result of the combination of atoms and void. He believed that our five senses are stimulated by atoms**
- D) Involvement in politics was considered to be a wise behavior by followers of Epicurus such as Lucretius

4. Roman historian Tacitus wrote a valuable account of one of the first persecutions of the Christians, which happened in Rome in 64 CE. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

- A) Nero was reluctant to use torture against the Christians
- B) Christians initially were held responsible for the**

**fire that destroyed half of the city of Rome, but in the end, according to Tacitus, they were convicted for the crime of "hatred against mankind"**

- C) Tacitus in this passage shows a deep appreciation of Judea (Israel) and its culture
- D) Christians were indeed responsible for the fire that destroyed half of the city of Rome

5. Pliny's report to the emperor Trajan is a good indication of the attitude of the Romans towards the Christians, and provides one of the oldest non-Christian descriptions of the Mass and the celebration of the Eucharist. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

- A) Roman citizens who were accused of being Christians suffered the same fate of those who were not citizens
- B) Pliny admired Christians for their "stubbornness and unshakeable obstinacy"
- C) Pliny was willing to release those Christians who recanted, recited in front of him an invocation of the pagan gods, and made offerings of wine and incense to the emperor's statue**
- D) Pliny's report and the etymology of the word "pagan" confirm that Christian religion spread first to the countryside and then to the cities

6. In spite of their moderate acceptance and tolerance of other cultures and religions, the Romans clashed with Jews and Christians. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

- A) The Roman government was suspicious of the Christians because of their pacifism and their position on essential social institutions, such as slavery and private property
- B) In the beginning, the ancient Romans often confused the Christians with the Jews. Christians and Jews shared religious practices, rituals and prayers, and they both referred to books of the Bible as their sacred texts**
- C) The Jews did not object to the presence of Romans (pagans/gentiles) in their Holy Land
- D) All of the above

7. St. Ambrose, a Roman citizen born in France, shaped the form and the words of many Catholic rituals. Ambrose, together with Augustine and other Doctors of the Church, introduced and popularized the allegorical interpretation of the Bible and of Christian life. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

- A) During this time, both the Bible and human life are seen as having multiple layers of signification: through the Bible and through all events God is communicating with each individual
- B) The allegorical interpretation is based on the assumption that the Bible was directed by God to the Church in general, not just to a single group in a specific

place, or to a community that lived only during a certain time

C) An example of the allegorical interpretation of the Old Testament is the episode of the prophet Jonah in the belly of the whale: the allegory does not take away from the reality of Jonah's experience, and yet at the same time that story is read also as a prophecy of Jesus' death and resurrection

**D) All of the above**

8. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding St. Augustine:

**A) *The City of God* was written in the years following the sack of Rome by the Visigoths (410 CE). St. Augustine tried to provide a systematic re-examination of Roman history, suggesting that God supported the development of the Roman Empire (under which Jesus was to be born)**

B) St. Augustine believed that the values of Greco-Roman civilization were, for the most part, radically different from the principles of Christianity, and therefore incompatible with it

C) St. Augustine agreed with those who saw in the sack of Rome a sign of the weakness of the new God accepted by the Romans, a God who seemed unable or unwilling to protect the city of Rome and its inhabitants

D) All of the above

9. "Charlemagne is a great uniting hero of European mythology, admired in France, Germany, Britain, and Italy alike, and in recent times his Empire has even been cast as an early version of the European Union" (Bryan Ward-Perkins). Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) The fact that Pope Leo III, in Rome, crowned Charlemagne as a Holy Roman Emperor, did not imply that the legitimacy of the new 'super-power' was linked to the approval of the Papacy

**B) Thanks to the intervention of Charlemagne and the Franks, by the end of the eighth century new political zones had formed in Italy: a northern zone, under Frankish control; a central block of papal territory; and a southern zone with political and economic links to the East and North Africa**

C) In Southern Italy and in Sicily, the arrival of the Arabs, during the ninth century, was less important than the imperial plans and policies of the Frankish kings

D) In the midst of political and military disruptions, during this time many of the great northern and southern Italian trading towns (Venice, Naples, Genoa, Pisa) declined, and overall suffered more than inland cities

10. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Feudalism:

A) Feudalism is a political system that is uniquely European; it cannot be found in Asia (e.g. in Japan and China), or in other parts of the world in different times

B) Feudalism is a primitive but effective form of democracy

**C) Feudalism was characterized by a pyramidal organization of power, with governmental powers spreading over various castle-dominated districts and downward through lesser nobles**

D) Feudalism insured easy and direct control of the lowest vassals, those at the base of the pyramid, by a King or a Prince; it favored centralization over localism

11. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the relevance of chivalric literature in Italian culture:

A) Chivalric literature for a long time was the most popular form of religious literature in Italy

B) Inside this genre the protagonist is often a merchant who becomes a knight

C) Chivalric literature is not based on historical characters: there is no proof that Roland or King Arthur ever existed

**D) Many important modern Italian writers (Calvino, Sanguineti, Celati etc.) were inspired by ancient examples of chivalric literature**

12. Identify the correct statement from among the following, about the history of medieval civilization in Italy:

A) Medieval civilization, also known as the Dark ages, was a period in which the Church and the clergy had total control of Italian politics and practically dominated all aspects of social life

**B) During the Middle Ages many of the contents and ideas of Greco-Roman civilization were used to support the development of Christian culture**

C) Medieval civilization was an attempt to unify all aspects of life and culture under the umbrella of classical philosophy

D) During most of the Middle Ages Italy was unified politically, and then lost its unity again right before the age of the Renaissance

13. St. Francis of Assisi is the male patron saint of Italy. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) St. Francis' father was supportive of his son's choice, and encouraged him to follow his religious vocation

B) St. Francis died in 1492, the same year that America was discovered

C) In his preaching and writings St. Francis emphasized that the Gospel of Jesus should be always adapted to the circumstances of the believer's life and to the conditions of each society. Poor and rich alike can get to Heaven leading different lifestyles

**D) St. Francis' father was a merchant, and Francis was supposed to follow in his footsteps, but he dreamed of becoming a *troubadour* (=a poet) or a knight**

14. St. Francis' poem, entitled "Canticle of the Sun," is one of the first documents of Italian literature. Identify the correct statement from among the following:  
A) In this poem, St. Francis makes reference to "the second death," an expression used also in the New Testament, linked to Judgment day, when each soul, living or dead, past or present, will be (re)examined and will be assigned to Hell or Heaven for eternity  
B) In line with medieval ideology, St. Francis in this poem praises death, which in the religious culture of that time was seen as a mere transition to a better life, lived in the 'city of God'  
C) In this poem, St. Francis praises God for the creation of the universe, with specific reference to nature  
**D) All of the above**

15. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding St. Francis of Assisi:  
A) 20th-century composer Olivier Messiaen's only opera is "St. François d'Assise"; in it we see Francis discussing the nature of perfect joy, isolating himself in his prayer cell and forcing himself to confront human suffering by kissing a leper  
B) In the cycle of frescoes painted by Giotto in the Upper Basilica of Assisi, we see St. Francis delivering a sermon to the birds, giving his cloak to a poor man, and recreating the scene of the nativity of Jesus  
C) St. Francis defined true gladness with the following example: upon returning to the convent at night, during the winter, he comes to the gate, and is not allowed inside; if he accepts this humiliation without getting upset, that is true gladness and true virtue  
**D) All of the above**

16. In "The Canticle of the Sun," by St. Francis of Assisi, the scriptural sources (Genesis, the Gospels) do not fully justify the reference to fire as an element of creation. Identify the correct statement from among the following:  
A) The theory of the natural place of things, based on the theory of the 4 elements, explains that a piece of wood floats because it contains fire, burns because it contains air, etc.  
B) St. Hildegard of Bingen argued against the 'scientific' view of nature derived from the theory of the four elements  
C) Modern English words describing temperament and personality, such as "choleric," "sanguine," "phlegmatic" and "melancholic," have been introduced by modern medicine, regardless of the theory of the four elements  
**D) St. Francis probably was familiar with the theories introduced by Greek philosophers, according to whom all substances result from the combination of four basic elements: air, earth, fire, and water**

17. How would you characterize Florentine society during the age of Dante? Identify the correct statement from among the following:  
A) As they were so powerful, even merchants who had not paid taxes or who had been accused and were waiting for a trial could still be elected in the Florentine government  
**B) Each merchant belonged to a guild: guilds lobbied for political issues and policies that were vital for their members**  
C) Conflict of interest was not a serious problem: most merchants would never use political power to their advantage, or to the advantage of their friends and business partners  
D) The city-state of Florence was a democracy with a large base; most of the inhabitants of the city could vote and be voted

18. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Dante's 'minor' works:  
A) According to *La vita nova* (=The New Life), the ideal love, the kind of love that makes a person 'noble' is physical, not purely spiritual  
**B) According to *La vita nova* (=The New Life), what makes a person 'noble' is the experience of loving an extraordinary woman, not lineage or the status and reputation of one's family**  
C) According to Dante's *Monarchia* (=About Monarchy), the Emperor should have authority over the Pope; the Emperor is like the sun, shining light over the moon (i.e., the Pope)  
D) According to Dante's *De Vulgari Eloquentia* (=About Vernacular Language), only the Florentine dialect had enough dignity and elegance to be chosen as the language of the Italian nation

19. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the characteristics of the afterworld, in Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*:  
A) Hell, Purgatory and Paradise are not physical places; they are not located on Earth or close to Earth  
B) Hell is a cave, shaped like a sphere, located beneath the crust of the Earth  
C) Purgatory is a mountain, located somewhere in the Middle East, on top of which there is the garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve once lived  
**D) Paradise is in the skies, and the skies are a series of transparent spheres that rotate, with the moon, the stars and the planets embedded in them**

20. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the contents of *The Divine Comedy*:  
A) At the beginning of the poem the protagonist is lost in a forest just outside Florence  
B) This poem does not claim to be about a real journey:

it is meant to be interpreted like a dream or a vision

**C) This poem is a *summa* (=sum), a sort of medieval encyclopedia: it tries to summarize ideas and offer characters that are representative of all areas of culture and society**

D) During the first part of his journey, the protagonist is accompanied and guided by the spirit of the Roman poet Lucretius

21. What is Limbus (or limbo) in Dante's *The Divine Comedy*? What's its relevance in the poem? Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Limbus is in Hell, in the middle of the area of the cave where the actual sinners are punished

B) The episode of Limbus and the treatment of the characters in it suggest the disrespect that Dante and other Medieval scholars had for classical culture

**C) Limbus, according to Dante, is the place where the souls of the great men and women from the classical civilization reside, in a beautiful castle surrounded by a garden**

D) Dante's invention of the noble castle, where the spirits of the great men and women from the classical civilizations live, was accepted by theologians and eventually became part of Catholic theology

22. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the episode of Paolo and Francesca, from canto 5 of Dante's *Inferno* (=Hell):

**A) Contemporary documents said nothing about the love affair between Paolo and Francesca and the double murder that brought it to an end, while Dante's commentator Boccaccio seems to know way too many details**

B) According to most modern scholars and commentators, Dante faints at the end of this episode because he too had committed adultery during his life

C) Purely accidental in this canto is the fact that Paolo and Francesca first kiss each other after reading of the kiss between two adulterous lovers inside a text of chivalric literature

D) Famous lovers punished in Hell and described in the first part of canto 5 include Romeo and Juliet, Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, Aeneas and Dido

23. During Dante's times, this was commonly believed about the Earth (identify the correct statement from among the following):

A) The Earth is not flat; it is a sphere, and its natural place is at the center of a universe shaped like a sphere

B) There are only 3 continents (Europe, Africa, and Asia), and the bodies of waters separating them are shaped like a T, the image of Jesus' cross

C) Jerusalem, where Jesus died, is practically at the center of the area of our planet that is occupied by land

**D) All of the above**

24. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the popularity of Dante in modern times:

A) Dante's house in Florence, visited by hundreds of thousands of people every year, is a historical fake, constructed at the end of the 19th century

B) In the literary mystery *The Dante Club*, someone with intimate knowledge of *The Divine Comedy* appears to be staging murders that mirror exactly the punishments of Dante's *Inferno*

C) Roberto Benigni's 2002 TV show, "L'ultimo del Paradiso" (=The Last [canto] of Paradise), was watched by an unprecedented 46% of the total Italian audience

**D) All of the above**

25. According to Amilcare Iannucci ("The presence of Italian literature, old and new, abroad in the 20th-century"), "after Greek and Latin literature, Italian literature is the third in chronological order that aspired to and achieved classical status." Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Inside Limbus Dante meets the great historians of antiquity, and they welcome him into their company; with this gesture, Dante claims legitimacy for Latin (the language of his poem) as a literary language

**B) With a few notable exceptions, contemporary Italian authors have not had an enduring, transforming effect on the literary culture of our time. On the other hand, Dante and the great authors of the Renaissance continue to be powerful cultural forces to this day**

C) Dante's poem was not an instant best seller; it was only centuries later that the poem became widely known, an object of study and a source of creative inspiration

D) All of the above

26. Identify the correct statement from among the following, about the life of Giovanni Boccaccio:

A) He was born in Paris, from the secret affair that his father had with the King's daughter

B) He was in Paris when the epidemic of bubonic plague known as Black Death struck the city of Florence

**C) He introduced themes and ideas that would be developed fully during the age of Humanism and the Renaissance**

D) He joined the Church towards the end of his life, showing sincere remorse for the sinful, erotic literature that he had written when he was younger

27. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the protagonist of the first novella in Boccaccio's *Decameron*:

A) Ciappelletto, a notary from Prato, is described as an ordinary criminal, who is nothing more than a petty thief and a killer for hire

B) From the point of view of religion, there is little

doubt that Ciappelletto will end up in Heaven, because he repented sincerely before his death

**C) Ciappelletto is evil, from the point of view of religious morality, yet he is portrayed by the narrator as talented, successful and in demand in the world of merchants**

D) Ciappelletto outsmarts a wise old priest, who is not well versed in the Scriptures, but clearly knows a great deal about the power of rhetoric and about human nature in general

28. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the contents of Boccaccio's *Decameron*:

A) Knights are often the heroes of Boccaccio's novellas  
B) The young men and women who tell the novellas of the *Decameron* all belong to families of the feudal nobility

C) The novellas in the *Decameron* are organized by topic, with a descent from order to chaos, from virtue to vice

**D) 7 women and 3 men meet inside a church and decide to go to a villa outside Florence, where they spend ten out of fourteen days telling each other stories**

29. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding the main ideas on which Boccaccio's *Decameron* is based:

A) Human nature has good and bad qualities, but conventional morality and religion, in Boccaccio's view, still provide the best instruments to recognize them in all kinds of situations

B) The structure of the *Decameron* is similar to that of the Medieval collections of short stories (the so-called "Mirror for Princes"), which centered around political strategies and the reconstruction of historical events

**C) Each character has a different point of view; each character judges the others on the basis of his/her values and life experience**

D) The plague of 1348 in Boccaccio's narration becomes also the allegory of the demise of the Roman empire

30. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Pierpaolo Pasolini's movie, *Decameron* (1971):

A) In his version of the episode of Ciappelletto, Pasolini's intention was to comment on the relationship between men and women in contemporary Italian society

B) Pasolini alters Ciappelletto's novella to support a religious view of socio-economic issues

**C) In Pasolini's *Decameron*, Ciappelletto is 'sacrificed' and manipulated by the bourgeoisie; thanks to him, the two usurers can continue with their capitalist pursuits, and the Church can exploit**

**his fame**

D) All of the above

31. As Michael Mallett wrote, "Political disunity is often seen as the most significant characteristic of Italy" between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) Papal dominancy and the Church's role in Italian politics have often been seen as one of the factors contributing to Italy's military stability and political unity

B) Political unity is one of the most significant characteristics of Renaissance Italy; contemporary western monarchies (France, England, and Spain) lacked unity in their own areas

**C) A major explanation of the cultural vibrancy and authority of the Italian Renaissance lies in the strength of local political autonomy, in the cultural competitiveness between cities and courts**

D) All of the above

32. "Foreign intervention clearly played a crucial role" in the events of the Italian Renaissance (Mallett).

Identify the correct statement from among the following:

A) The sacking of cities, the devastation of the countryside, the drain of manpower and resources to the armies, the imposition of new taxes, and the looting of treasure, all took a toll on Italian society

B) Charles VIII's invasion and successful occupation of Naples sparked off inevitable reactions, and for the next half-century Italy was a battleground for the main powers in Europe

C) The political crisis in Florence, in the 1490s, was followed by the collapse of the Sforza regime in Milan, and the division of the Kingdom of Naples between France and Spain

**D) All of the above**

33. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Humanism:

A) Humanists frequently praised and celebrated the accomplishments of Medieval culture

**B) Humanism is a system of education and a mode of inquiry, developed in Northern Italy during the 14th and 15th century**

C) Inside Humanism, grammar, rhetoric, history, philosophy (with ethics and politics) were studied according the unifying principles of religion

D) Humanists emphasized the study of literature in their curricula, because of its entertainment value

34. Identify the correct statement from among the following, regarding Leonardo da Vinci:

A) The basis for the creation of the myth of Leonardo was the abundance of accurate details on him and his life

**B) When reading the life of Leonardo written by**

**Vasari, one cannot overlook the pathos and the allegorical implications of the last scene, in which the painter dies in the arms of the King of France**

C) Vasari, as an artist, had a vested interest in the destruction of Leonardo's reputation: he therefore included episodes such as the one in which Leonardo is scolded in Milan for not working hard enough  
D) Inside *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy*, by Jacob Burckhardt (1860), Leonardo is presented as the exact opposite of the Renaissance man

35. Identify the correct statement from among the following, taken from the interview with Paolo Galluzzi, curator of the exhibition "Innovative Engineers of Renaissance" (2001):

- A) One of the most important developments in the art of the 15th century was the introduction of linear perspective: a system of representing three-dimensional space based on the principles of geometry
- B) The situation of the technical worker before the 15th century can be defined as marginal; engineers were generally anonymous
- C) During the Middle Ages mechanical arts were the lowest level of knowledge. Being trained only in mechanical arts meant you were someone who worked with your hands, someone who was fit only to be directed by someone else who was better educated. We still have a trace of that distinction in our language, in the words "trivial" and "mechanical"
- D) All of the above**

36. Identify the correct statement among the following, regarding Machiavelli's *The Prince*:

- A) In the conclusion of Chapter 7 of the *Prince*, Machiavelli criticizes Cesare Borgia, previously indicated as the ideal leader, and accuses him of being responsible for his ultimate failure**
- B) According to Machiavelli, a prince should inspire love, not fear, because it is much safer to be loved than feared, and because in general men are honest and generous
- C) According to Machiavelli, Fortune is the arbiter of the majority of human actions; Fortune is like a raging river: all surrender to its violence, without being able in any way to withstand it
- D) Machiavelli claims that Cassius and Brutus, two of the conspirators who murdered Julius Caesar, were the worst sinners that ever lived

37. Summarize the main events in the novella of Ciappelletto, from Boccaccio's *Decameron*.

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38. Summarize the story of Paolo and Francesca, from Dante's *Inferno*, Canto 5.

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39. Summarize Machiavelli's view of politics and history.

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40. Briefly discuss the relevance of local identities/cultures in Italian civilization.

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