

CMNS 110 (SPR 07)

Midterm Take-Home.

INSTRUCTIONS

The exam should be handed in to your TA at lecture week 11; depending on your TA's schedule, arrangements may be made to hand in the exam earlier. There is no minimum limit, write as much as you think it takes; upper limit; individual answers may not exceed 750 words.

Proper academic form is expected in the take-home assignment, as with all formal written work. In addition to command of course or research literature, clarity and transparency of the organization of discourse, succinct writing, correct use of citations and bibliographies, introductory summary, clear point of departure, conclusion or summation, course-driven vocabulary and copia, overall presentation, and the presence of the "something extra," are all factored into grading criteria.

QUESTIONS**I. COURSE LITERATURE BASED ESSAY TYPE QUESTIONS**

Do **THREE** (3 X 5% = 15%) of the 6 below.

1. Explain the origins and characteristics of "courtly love" as a literary genre. Could we say that a form of double bind is built into the genre? Why or why not?
2. What was it about poetry that made Plato throw the poets out of the Republic? Why might we say that Plato, perhaps unconsciously -- through the banishment of the poets, and his own opinion on orality and literacy -- appears to present us with either an inconsistency or contradiction? Would you agree or disagree, why?
3. What is the "art of memory"; which are its essential elements and techniques? In this context, why and how is the theory of loci to be considered as a technique for composition rather than rote learning? How could this be reconciled with the idea that memory is the recollection of things and events past? Or, is this a limited view of memory?
4. Why and how is the self a product of "conversation?" With whom? It's been suggested that "flame" rather than "stone" is a better metaphor for describing consciousness and identity. Why?
5. What is propaganda? Listing six communication and/or media strategies used by propagandists, explain how each of these might be used in *framing* social issues, &/or rules, &/or relations.
6. What constitutes a public sphere? What would characterize communication practices and institutions in Habermas' ideal public sphere? Would propaganda be allowed in this ideal public sphere? Why or why not? How would Dewey respond to Habermas' ideal public sphere?" Lippmann?

II. 2. RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS REPORT (10%) Again, no lower limit, but may not exceed 1000 words.

Provide an update on your progress on the research assignment.

Along a clear articulation of the issue/s you will address and option you have chosen, and such discussion and exposition of substantive content of your explorations as necessary to illustrate, support, or inquire further, explain:

- Why you chose this topic (why should anyone care)?
- What you think the limitations of the Wikipedia entry, discussion available on Wikipedia, or general public (media) discourse are, as well as providing your reasons
- How has the information you've begun to consult informed or enriched your critical understanding of the issues at hand, thus enabling overcoming such limitations in your revision, original entry, or critical intervention.