

Religion and Politics (Religious Studies 3CC3 / Political Science 3LA3) – Winter 2019

TEXT PREPARATION 3

Assignment due in class on March 18 from some students

Please only complete this assignment if you have received your marked first assignment for this class. It is important to take full account of past feedback received in completing a further assignment for this course.

This assignment consists of attendance of the full class session on March 18, plus completing the written assignment below, to be submitted in class on March 18 only.

(*Rationale:* Text Preparation assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular class meeting, in conjunction with your participation in that class meeting, when we go over the reading selection together.)

If you cannot come to class on March 18, please plan to complete a different Text Preparation assignment for a future date.

This assignment is based on:

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology*, chapter 3 (with knowledge of chapter 1, discussed in class on March 11, in the background)

Detailed Instructions: In well-written paragraphs, a total of 600–700 words, please address the following two questions with detailed reference to the text:

1. According to Schmitt, how is the rejection of the "exception" in political or legal theory analogous to the theological rejection of the miracle?
2. What observations does Schmitt make about historic "rationalism" and "scientific thinking," and what is their connection to his theory of sovereignty (his theory of the state)?

Please number your answers to the individual questions.

As was the case for the Text Summary assignment, all your observations about the text should be backed up with references that allow your reader to see what they are based on; for this purpose, please use in-text parenthetical page references, as in this sample sentence:

Locke underscores that acts of violence are sometimes perpetrated "upon pretence of Religion" (23).

Please print your assignment double-spaced and with one-inch margins, using an 11–12-point font. Please number and staple the pages you hand in. Please write "Text Preparation 3" at the top, and indicate the total word count at the end.

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Note: Since this is your first reading of this text, and since we have not yet discussed it in class, the summary assignment is simply a first effort at figuring out what it says, and doing it will help you get the most of our in-class work on it. The assignment is not evaluated for whether it demonstrates a good understanding of the reading, but for evidence of your having worked in detail to understand the reading. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our class meetings, and with successive re-readings.

Plagiarism Warning: This assignment is designed to be completed by means of independent work on the assigned reading selection, aided by the guidance you have received in class/tutorial and by consulting the instructor and the TA: We are always available to discuss the questions you encounter as you read and re-read the texts for this class. It is neither necessary nor desirable that you consult outside sources in order to complete this assignment. Please remember that unacknowledged use of such sources constitutes plagiarism and is a violation of the university's [Academic Integrity policy](#).

Please keep a copy of your assignment to refer to in our class and tutorial discussions.

posted March 11, 2019

<https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/danahol/3CC3/textprep3.pdf>