

PSCI 3320 (Lowe) – Short Paper (Due 10 February, 2015)

Instructions:

Pick one of the following questions and write a 2–4 page paper in response. You are also welcome to write on a topic of your choosing, but must discuss this topic with me by class time on 2/5. Please turn in a hard copy at the start of class *and* submit an electronic version through turnitin.com. (You may submit your papers to me via email in lieu of turning in a hard copy, but I need to have these by the beginning of class.) You will need to create a turnitin account and enroll in our course (information found on the syllabus). Your paper will be considered on time as long as you turn in the hard copy at the start of class. For no reason should you skip class or be late to submit a copy to turnitin.com. No paper grade will be released, however, until it is submitted to turnitin.com.

Requirements: *Staple* your papers. Each paper must have an *original title*; “short paper” is insufficient. Papers should be double spaced with 1-inch margins. Use 12 point and either Arial, Times New Roman, or Garamond font. *Number pages*. You may complete a paragraph on a fifth page, but do not start a new one.

Paper extensions will not be granted except for extenuating circumstances. In order to receive such an extension, you must request permission in writing at least two days before the due date. Grades on late papers will be reduced as indicated on the syllabus.

Papers should be argumentative essays, not summaries. Your task is to stake out a clear position with your thesis statement and then to support that claim with evidence from the text. You should always *explain quotations* in order to demonstrate the point you are making by calling on them. You may cite quotations parenthetically by page number in our edition. A bibliography is unnecessary; simply use NO, GI, or NA before the page number where appropriate. This additional notation need only be used the first time unless you are using multiple sources, in which case you should employ it in all parenthetical citations.

In all things, remember that your first task is to ANSWER THE QUESTION

1. In *New Atlantis* Bacon has apparently left out a discussion of the ideal political regime and its accompanying laws. As we discussed, however, that does not mean politics is absent. Setting aside the king for whom we never receive a name, who are the *real* rulers in Bensalem? You should select *only one* of the following: (1) scientists – either one or a collectivity – from Salomon’s House, (2) a philosophic statesman like Joabin, or (3) the priestly class symbolized by the priest-governor of

Stranger's House. In your answer, refer to the text and draw evidence to support your choice. Also be sure to indicate the weaknesses of the alternative choices.

2. Bacon's *New Organon* indicates that the Idols of the Marketplace (words) are the "most troublesome" of the Idols with which the human understanding is beset. Is this or is this not an accurate claim? Is this Idol – and perhaps also the others – able to be effectively used for Bacon's purposes? How? What benefits might its utilization provide, and what difficulties might follow? (Consider Bacon's own use of word and terminology.)

3. Francis Bacon is adamant in his presentation of Bensalem as a Christian kingdom. To what extent is his characterization accurate? In what way is Bensalem's Christianity different from that with which Europeans would have been familiar in 1627? Is Christianity as such compatible with Bacon's political-scientific project? If not, why? If so, what is the extent of its compatibility. In your answer, you should draw clear examples from the text(s) that highlight the relationship between and content of both science and religion as Bacon presents them.