Religion and Politics (Religious Studies 3CC3 / Political Science 3LA3) – Winter 2014

TEXT PREPARATION 3
Assignment due in class on March 20* from some students.

*As noted on the course syllabus: Text Preparation assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular class, <u>in conjunction with your participation in that class</u>. Thus, these assignments may only be submitted in class on the days they are due. If you have to miss that day's class, please contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements.

This assignment is based on: Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology* [purchase book], chapter 3 (with knowledge of chapter 1 in the background)

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 (theory of the state)?

As was the case for previous assignments, all your observations in the Text Preparation assignment should be backed up with references that allow your reader to see what they are based on in the text. For this purpose, please use <u>in-text parenthetical page references</u>—for an example of these, see Harvey, *Writing with Sources*, p. 51, under "MLA Basic Rules."

<u>Note</u>: Since this is your first reading of this text, and since we have not yet discussed it in class, the Text Preparation 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 the reading. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our class meetings, and with successive re-readings.

Please print your assignment <u>double-spaced</u> and with <u>one-inch margins</u>, using an 11- or 12-point font. Please number and staple the pages you hand in.

**Please indicate the <u>total word count</u> at the end of your assignment.

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

posted February 28, 2014

socserv.socsci.mcmaster.ca/danahol/3cc3/textprep3.pdf