

## Religion and Politics (Religious Studies 3CC3 / Political Science 3LA3) – Winter 2015

### TEXT PREPARATION 3

#### Assignment due in class on March 16 from some students

This assignment consists of attendance of the full class session on March 16, plus completing the written assignment below, to be submitted in class on March 16 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 16, please plan to complete a different Text Preparation assignment for a future date.

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This assignment is based on:

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology*, chapter 3 (with knowledge of chapter 1 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 the answers to the individual questions.

As was the case for the Text Summary assignment, 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 in-text parenthetical page references—for an example of these, see Harvey, *Writing with Sources*, p. 51, under "MLA Basic Rules."

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.

**Note:** 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 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 by Carl Schmitt, 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 8, 2015**

[socserv.socsci.mcmaster.ca/danahol/3cc3/textprep3.pdf](http://socserv.socsci.mcmaster.ca/danahol/3cc3/textprep3.pdf)