

Religion and Politics (Society, Culture & Religion 3CC3 / Political Science 3LA3) – Spring 2023

TEXT PREPARATION 2

Assignment due by May 30, 9 a.m. (Toronto time) in the assignment folder on Avenue.

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.

Text Preparation assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular date, in advance of listening to the lecture on that date, in which I go over that reading selection, offering you a chance to re-read and refine your understanding as you follow along with the lecture. For this reason, this assignment must be submitted by May 30, 9 a.m., prior to listening to Lecture 8, which will be released at 9 a.m. on that day.

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 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 to PDF, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, using an 11–12-point font, and with no cover sheet. Please write your name and “Text Preparation 2” at the top, and indicate the total word count at the end.

Note: Since this is your first reading of this text, taking place before you hear the lecture about it or participate in tutorial discussion about it, the summary assignment is simply a first effort at figuring out what the text says, and completing the assignment is meant to help you get the most of the lecture and discussion 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 through your participation in the ongoing course activities, and with successive re-readings.

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Academic Integrity Notice: This assignment is designed to be completed by means of independent work on Schmitt's book, aided by the guidance you have received in course materials, the online tutorials, and by consulting the instructor: I am 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](#). Further, as stated on the course syllabus, using ChatGPT or other AI composition software is a form of academic dishonesty under that policy.

Please keep a copy of your assignment to refer to during our tutorial discussion.