Final Project for the Course "Communication and Humanistic Thought"

First year, Department of Communication

Dr. Bina Nir

The project is based on all the material learned in the course: presentations, explanations during lessons and source passages that were uploaded to the course website.

The deadline for submission is up to four weeks after the last lesson in the course, which takes place on 15.2.2021

Each student submitting individually must choose three of the following seven assignments; those submitting in pairs must choose four of the seven.

# Explain and model the idea presented by Plato: “I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing” in any context you choose, in the context of current discourse. Include in this discussion the text from the course which was titled "Knowledge, Information, Understanding".

# Plato’s allegory of the cave is meaningful and relevant for every time and place. However, there may be changes in the objects whose images are projected on the cave wall, their shadowy representations, the types of people chained in the cave, and their communal opinions. Explain this parable using a case study you choose from contemporary media or the social / political world of today.

# We, as individuals, have a strong need for social belonging, but this same social belonging, for which we long, can have negative effects. Regarding this tension between the individual and society (the 'herd') we referred to two texts during the first semester: one from Seneca on 'avoiding the crowd' and the other from Nietzsche regarding moving 'from a herd mentality to individualism'. Explain the tension between the individual and society, as it is expressed in the current age of social networks, using ideas based on these texts.

# Select one of the following texts by Nietzsche and discuss it in the context of a current media / social / political issue

# The camel, the lion, and the child

# Twilight of the idols

# Enslavement to work

# Humans’ will to power

# Man is a rope stretched [between the animal and the Superman]

# With reference to the main ideas in Erich Fromm's book *Escape from Freedom*, present, explain and model the escape mechanism that Fromm describes as ‘automaton conformity’ in relation to people’s behavior today.

# Thomas Hobbes (1679-1588) and Sigmund Freud (1939-1856) describe human desire as being ‘subjugated from youth’. Both believe, as a result of their conceptions of human nature, that great authority should be exercised over people within the political framework (the monarchy, according to Hobbes' recommendation) or the cultural framework and its laws (according to Freud's understanding). Present their positions, based on the texts we have studied, and demonstrate your position based on a current issue.

# Abraham Maslow, in his discussion of human nature, presents an approach that combines innate nature with cultural design. He compares our innate humanity to an acorn that needs sunlight, nutrients and water in order to become an oak tree. Do you personally think that the public education system today in the State of Israel provides sunlight, water and nutrients (to borrow this metaphor) so that its graduates can realize their potential? Discuss this issue based on the text, and give a detailed current example.

# Wishing you success,

# Bina