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CH 202

Assignment 1

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### **Group 1**

In possibly the most famous depiction of Christ, *The Last Supper*, we can identify the time period in which it was painted by using some simple techniques. In this depiction we see Christ sitting at the center of table with many people talking to each other, none of them appearing to actually be eating. We can see they are sitting in a room which is clearly displayed in 3-dimensions, a signal that this piece could be from the Renaissance. This 3-dimensionality is an expression of a mixture of art and math. The light in the room is centered on Christ, drawing the eye directly toward him. A key aspect of the piece is that the people he is sitting with do not have halos or any other indication that they are holy. By the clothes they are wearing they seem to be upper-class, possibly nobles. This distinction is important in deciding when this piece was painted because during the Renaissance humanism was an influencing movement in many aspects of art.

### **Group 2, Question B**

Niccolò Machiavelli's *The Prince* is a perfect example of a humanist text. At its very core, this text is about the nature of man and how his actions can affect his reign. In the lecture it was mentioned that "Humanists emphasized practical and scientific studies of human nature, achievements, and thought", which applies directly to what Machiavelli wrote about. At the very beginning of this text, Machiavelli writes "But coming to the other point — where a leading citizen becomes the prince of his country..." (Machiavelli 43). He is writing about how a citizen can become a prince. This was another leading idea in humanism, how every day citizens could develop into clear and eloquent individuals and climb the ranks in society. These key points make it clear where Machiavelli was coming from and what he was saying in the context of his society at the time.

Works Cited

Machiavelli, Niccolò, and David Wootton. *The Prince*. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co, 1995. Print.