

國立臺灣師範大學 103 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

科目：美國文學史

適用系所：英語學系

注意：1.本試題共 2 頁，請依序在答案卷上作答，並標明題號，不必抄題。2.答案必須寫在指定作答區內，否則不予計分。

There are three parts in the exam. Please follow the instructions closely.

Part I. Choose only ONE question below and answer it in the fashion of standard academic essay. It takes up 25 points.

1. Ralph Waldo Emerson appeared to be the literary giant of the mid-nineteenth America. His influence to Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Walt Whitman, and Herman Melville was undeniable. He himself was also a prolific writer and powerful orator. Use “Nature” to explain Emerson’s ideas about nature and transcendentalism.
2. Nathaniel Hawthorne was claimed to be the “the most valuable example of American genius” among the mid-nineteenth century writers. Hawthorne was known for his depictions of the dark side of human nature and psychology. Compare and contrast “Young Goodman Brown” and “The Minister’s Black Veil” to illustrate the features of his writing.
3. Emily Dickinson was perhaps the most radical and nonconformist writer of her time. She was a pioneer in many ways and remains to be unsurpassable. Compare and contrast any two poems below to demonstrate your understanding of her artistry and the important concerns of her poetry.
#320 “There’s a certain Slant of light,”
#378 “This World is not conclusion.”
#409 “The Soul selects her own Society – ”

Part II. Answer BOTH questions below. Each will take up 25 points.

1. Please compare and contrast the themes and concerns of the four major 19th-c. American novelists Henry James, Edith Wharton, Herman Melville and Mark Twain. Your discussion must include all these four novelists, and not on other writers. Also do not discuss on individual work, but focus your discussion and analysis on their interrelationship among each other, the influence upon each other, contrast, and comparison of each other, for instance, “Henry James and Edith Wharton,” or among the four novelists. (25 points)
2. Please discuss the significance of Ezra Pound and his influence upon the American poets, such as his contemporaries, including T. S. Eliot, William Carlos Williams, H.D., and e. e. cummings particularly, and other poets of his generation and later generations. Please cite and analyze specifically the poems that

國立臺灣師範大學 103 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

demonstrate the influence. You may also write on other poets you know but not listed above. Also discuss contrast between the trend of international modernism advocated by Ezra Pound and Eliot, and that of William Carlos Williams's concept of "American grain" and the "indigenous" American school of modern poetry. (25 points)

Part III. There's only one question in this part and it takes up 25 points.

In recent years, scholars and critics become more concerned with a transnational perspective of the study of American literature. They pay attention to the interrelationships between the texts, which may be written inside the terrain of the US, and the events taking place outside the boundaries of the US nation. Paul Giles in his *The Global Remapping of American Literature* (2011) states that "many of the most interesting studies of American culture have engaged with points of encounter and crossover between domestic and foreign territories" (259) while commenting on the "postnationalist" agenda of the New Americanist movement. Write a lucid essay to enter into dialogue with Giles by analyzing the works of at least TWO post-1980 writers (such as Toni Morrison, Linda Hogan, Henry David Huang, etc.; you can make your own choices) to illustrate your reflections on the transnational interconnectedness of American literature.