

靜宜大學 97 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系所：英文系

科目：美國文學

共 2 頁

Part One

Please answer THREE (around 100 – 150 words for each) out of the following questions by identifying the author and the work (5%) first. Then, answer the question according to your opinions (15%):

1. Please identify the "author" and the title of "work" first. What does "Civil Body Politick" stand for according to your understanding?

Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the Presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a **Civil Body Politick**, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by Virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the General good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

2. Please identify the "author" and the title of "work" first. Then, show your interpretation of the following passage according whatever you might read from it:

Thus the old gentleman ended his harangue. The people heard it, and approved the doctrine, and immediately practiced the contrary, just as if it had been a common sermon; for the vendue opened, and they began to buy extravagantly, notwithstanding all his cautions, and their own fear of taxes.

3. Please identify the "author" and the title of "work" first. Apply any Feminist thinking you know to interpret the lines:

From School-boy's tongue no Rhet'ric we expect,
Nor yet a sweet Consort from broken strings,
Nor perfect beauty where's a main defect.
My foolish, broken, blemished Muse so sings,
And this to mend, alas, no Art is able,
'Cause Nature made it so irreparable.

4. Please identify the "author" and the title of "work" first. Interpret the following passage in terms of any religious idea you can read in it:

She hears, upon that water without sound,
A voice that cries, "The tomb in Palestine
Is not the porch of spirits lingering.
It is the grave of Jesus, where he lay."
We live in an old chaos of the sun,
Or old dependency of day and night,
Or island solitude, unsponsored, free,
Of that wide water, inescapable.
Deer walk upon our mountains, and the quail
Whistle about us their spontaneous cries;
Sweet berries ripen in the wilderness;
And, in the isolation of the sky,
At evening, casual flocks of pigeons make
Ambiguous undulations as they sink,
Downward to darkness, on extended wings.

5. Please identify the "author" and the title of "work" first. How do you interpret the connection between two (Goodman Brown and the old man) in the following passage in terms of any religious idea according to your own opinions:

It was now deep dusk in the forest, and deepest in that part of it where these two were journeying. As nearly as could be discerned, the second traveller was about fifty years old, apparently in the same rank of life as Goodman Brown, and bearing a considerable resemblance to him, though perhaps more in expression than features. Still they might have been taken for father and son. And yet, though the elder person was as simply clad as the younger, and as simple in manner too, he had an indescribable air of one who knew the world, and who would not have felt abashed at the governor's dinner table or in King William's court, were it possible that his affairs should call him thither.

6. Please identify the "author" and the title of "work" first. Then interpret what "essential facts of life" mean according to your opinions:

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practise resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life....

Part Two

Please answer ONE (around 250 words) out of the following questions (40%)

1. What might be the possible connection between the study of American Literature and the so-called "Protestant Reformation" according to your understanding?
2. Take one American author as your favorite one to discuss your knowledge of the author in terms of his/her writing style, famous works and the importance of the author in studying American Literature!
3. What does "American Renaissance" stand for? Who are those authors within this special period of time according to your knowledge? Please Describe each one briefly!
4. Take one literary approach as your favorite one to show how it might help you study American Literature in any special way! You need to show your knowledge of the approach first. Then, try to take some works (at least two) as examples to show how it would help you read the works!