

國立中山大學九十三年學年度博士班招生考試試題

科目：英美文學史【外文系】

共 2 頁 第 1 頁

Ph.D. Entrance Examination (2004)
The Literary History of English and American History

Part I: English Literature (60%)

There are two sections for Part One. You are required to answer **one** out of the two questions for **English Literature before 1800** and answer the required question for **English Literature after 1800**.

English Literature before 1800 (ANSWER ONE ONLY 30%)

1. Pastoral mode is one of the most enduring conventions in literature before the eighteenth century. The general understanding of the mode refers to nostalgic image of the peace and simplicity of the life of shepherds and other rural folk in an idealized natural setting. Do you find such a pastoral mode convention attracts the attention of the writers throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries? Please name two literary works of the period indicated above and discuss how the pastoral mode is elaborated by the writers for graceful display of high artifice with thematic variations.
2. Shakespeare and many other dramatists before the mid-seventeenth century tend to take sovereignty as a major theme in their dramatic works. A group of critics argue that some dramatists such as Shakespeare and Fletcher intended to suggest authoritative images deconstructed or sovereignty under iconoclasm. Do you agree with this argument? You are suggested to discuss the relationship between writers and the court system or sovereignty as involved.

English Literature after 1800 (You have to answer this question. 30%)

1. New historicism, psychoanalytical theories, feminism, reader-response criticism are the leading approaches to twentieth century literature. Every approach mentioned above has its advantages and disadvantages. Please choose a **poet** from the twentieth century English literature and discuss how this poet can be understood with one approach. (You have to choose one critical approach from the four mentioned approaches and please discuss with examples.)

國立中山大學九十三年學年度博士班招生考試試題

科目：英美文學史【外文系】

共二頁 第 二 頁

Part II: American Literature (40%)

Answer either **A** or **B**. (40%)

A: Possibly a teacher of American literature and culture, you may be asked in the future to teach an undergraduate survey course in **American literature before 1865**. Please state objectives of your course and justify your choice of writers or works that reflect an American literary tradition according to genre, theme, style, chronology, literary diversity, or your other concerns.

B: Possibly a teacher of American literature and culture, you may be asked in the future to teach an undergraduate survey course in **American literature since 1865**. Please state objectives of your course and justify your choice of writers or works that reflect an American literary tradition according to genre, theme, style, chronology, literary diversity, or your other concerns.

國立中山大學九十三年度博士班招生考試試題

科目：文學批評【外文系】

共 2 頁 第 / 頁

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.

1. Briefly define any FIVE of the following terms. [15%]

- (1) *A Room of One's Own*
- (2) simulacrum
- (3) Hans-Georg Gadamer
- (4) objective correlative
- (5) Name-of-the-Father
- (6) Pierre Bourdieu
- (7) hermeneutic circle
- (8) *hamartia*
- (9) *signifiant* and *signifié*
- (10) Benedetto Croce

2. Describe and discuss the intertextuality between Plato's *Phaedrus* and Jacques Derrida's "Plato's Pharmacy" (*Dissemination*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981, 61-172), especially with regard to discussions of the relation of the sign (written, spoken, gestural) to the thing(s) for which it purports to stand. [20%]

3. In "The Language of Paradox" the New Critic Cleanth Brooks claims that "the language of poetry is the language of paradox" and "paradox is the language appropriate and essential to poetry." He also makes the following statements:

"Apparently the truth which the poet utters can be approached only in terms of paradox."

"I have said that even the apparently simple and straightforward poet is forced into paradoxes by the nature of his instrument."

"I submit that the only way by which the poet could say what [John Donne's] 'The Canonization' says is by paradox."

You are asked to answer the following questions: [35%]

(1) What does Brooks mean by the language of paradox? [8%]

(2) Analyze Jane Hirshfield's "The Poet" quoted below according to your understanding of Brooks's theory. [17%]

She is working now, in a room
not unlike this one,
the one where I write, or you read.
Her table is covered with paper.
The light of the lamp would be
tempered by a shade, where the bulb's

國立中山大學九十三年學年度博士班招生考試試題

科目：文學批評【外文系】

共 2 頁 第 2 頁

single harshness might dissolve,
but it is not, she has taken it off.
Her poems? I will never know them,
though they are the one I most need.
Even the alphabet she writes in
I cannot decipher. Her chair—
Let us imagine whether it is leather
or canvas, vinyl or wicker. Let her
have a chair, her shadeless lamp,
the table. Let one or two she loves
be in the next room. Let the door
be closed, the sleeping ones healthy.
Let her have time, and silence,
Enough paper to make mistakes and go on.

(3) Explain what does that shadeless lamp in the poem suggest? [5%]

(4) There is an obvious figure of the poet in the poem. What kind of figure is it? [5%]

4. In her famous essay "Against Interpretation," Susan Sontag writes: "The old style of interpretation . . . erected another meaning on top of the literal one. The modern style of interpretation excavates, and as it excavates, destroys; it digs 'behind' the text, to find a sub-text which is the true one. The most celebrated and influential modern doctrines, those of Marx and Freud, actually amount to elaborate systems of hermeneutics, aggressive and impious theories of interpretation." So it seems that, as Fredric Jameson has observed, interpretation has fallen into disrepute.

What, then, in your view, is interpretation and what is its function? Explain the difference in the role that interpretation, or construing a text, plays in more traditional criticism as against contemporary theories such as deconstructive criticism. [30%]

國立中山大學九十三年學年度博士班招生考試試題

科目：英文作文【外文系】

共 / 頁 第 / 頁

Test of Written English

Do you agree with the adage that "Home is where the heart is"? Develop an essay in which you state and elaborate your response to the above saying. Please keep in mind that you need to present your ideas in a clear and logical order and to support your response with specific facts, details, examples and/or reasons.