

Ph.D. Entrance Examination
Literary Criticism and Theory

I. Define the following terms. 30%

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <i>The Mirror and The Lamp</i> | 2. "The Order of discourse" |
| 3. Socratic <i>pharmakon</i> | 4. abject |
| 5. disinterestedness | 6. ablism |

II. Answer the following questions. 70%

1. Describe and discuss how the treatments of pathos or poetic feeling in the essays of Wordsworth, John Ruskin, T.S. Eliot, and W.K. Wimsatt and M.C. Beardsley are conceptually related? (20%)
2. How would you situate postcolonial theory in relation to feminism? How would you define a separate trajectory of feminist thought about race, power, and empire? Discuss the mutual illumination—or non-illumination—of postcolonialism and feminism with specific textual/ critical examples. (25%)
3. "If we imagine ourselves as planetary subjects rather than global agents, planetary creatures rather than global entities, alterity remains underived from us; it is not our dialectical negation, it contains us as much as it flings us away." Discuss. (25%)

科目：英美文學史【外文系】

PHD ENTRANCE EXAM: ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE

§ Part One: English Literature 60%

This part consists of two sections: English Literature before 1800 and English Literature after 1800. Please answer one question ONLY from each of the sections below:

Section A: English Literature before 1800

Please answer ONE out of the two following questions in Section A.

1. Romance, Medieval drama, narratives and poetic forms together with religious writings are the most important genres in medieval literature. Since medieval literature is a broad subject for research, and the Middle Ages is a period running from the 5th century through the fifteenth century, how to approach literature from the perspective of history is always one of the main concerns for medievalists. Please discuss your viewpoint by discussing the values of interpreting literature from the perspective of history. The discussion **MUST** include three literary works from medieval literature.
2. The Renaissance period witnessed intellectual and economical growth, the expansion of trades and international relations, and multiple voices in literature. In English Renaissance, for example, some writers or playwrights manifest their concern about the darker side of the human mind. These writers (playwrights) include Shakespeare, Webster, Jonson, Milton, John Donne and many others. Please name **TWO** Renaissance writers mentioned above and discuss their representations of the darker side of the human minds or the human world. The discussion **MUST** include the analysis as related to the writers' point of view towards the darker side of the human mind.

Section B: English Literature after 1800

Please answer ONE out of the two following questions in Section B.

1. Victorian studies always include the modules such as Victorian society, Victorian cities, English drama in transition, Victorian art and literature etc. In the module of the city, the main concern might comprise urbanism, moral environment, working and living environment. We can find many Victorian literary writings satirizing and criticizing the cities. Please discuss the perceptions and images of the city and representation of the city with examples from two writers (poets, novelists, essayists, dramatists) in The Victorian era.

2. Yeats wrote, "to the greater poets everything they see has its relation to the national life, and through that to the universal and divine life...you can no more have the greater poetry without a nation than religion without symbols." Thomas Davis was recognized as one of the pioneers for cultural nationalism in Ireland and half a century later, Yeats constructed Abbey Theatre. Throughout the twentieth century, many Irish playwrights made significant contributions to the Irish stage. Two leading themes in their works include the **concern toward Ireland** and the **sense of displacement** of the small people. Please discuss any two Irish playwrights from the list below and analyze the themes (**concern toward Ireland** and **the sense of displacement**) found in their works. (Lady Gregory, Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats, Sean O'Casey, Brenden Behan, Samuel Beckett, J.M. Synge)

§ **Part TWO: American Literature 40%**

Please answer ONE of the questions and write a coherent essay with references to textual examples

1. Agrarianism, "the celebration of agriculture and rural life for the positive impact thereof on the individual and society," as David B. Danbom notes, is especially attractive to Americans because of its appeals to cultural myths and values at the core of its existence. Please discuss how the notion of agrarianism serves as a form of social/political critique in the works of Thomas Jefferson, Henry David Thoreau, and John Steinbeck.
2. Please discuss the function of "escape" in the works of Benjamin Franklin, Mark Twain, and Toni Morrison.

科目：英文作文【外文系】

Entrance Exam on "Writing"
Ph. D. Program in English,
National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan
Spring 2010

Please write an essay of 1500 words or so, in English, upon the following topic:

The Soul of Wit, and Its Location in the Life and Career of a Literary Scholar