

## Study Guide for American Lit 1 Exam 1

Dr. O'Donnell, East TN State U. Last revised: June 13, 2017.

The exam will be held on Monday, June 19, 2017. You will have an hour and fifteen minutes, in class, to complete the exam.

The exam has two parts: I Short Answer, worth 15 points, and II Mini Essays, worth 10 points. The maximum total for the whole exam is thus 25 points, and the exam in turn is worth 25% of your final grade.

During the exam, you may refer to your class anthology, and to your notes. However, for the "Mini Essays," I require that you compose those paragraphs on the spot, in class, rather than composing them ahead of time and transcribing them in class during the exam.

**I. SHORT ANSWER** -- Write one or two sentences in response to each prompt.

There will be 15 short answer prompts on the exam. These prompts will include straightforward, factual questions about any of the works we've read for class. Consider character, plot, setting, point of view, and also author and publication history.

EXAMPLES:

1. When is the short story, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," set?
2. Where is the short story, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," set?
3. Who is the author of "My Kinsman, Major Molineux"?
4. When was the story published?
5. Name and describe the main character.
  
6. Who is "Columbia," the central figure in Phillis Wheatley's poem, "To His Excellency General Washington"?
7. When is the short story, "Rip Van Winkle," set?
8. Where is the short story, "Rip Van Winkle," set?
9. Who is the fictional author of the story?
10. Who is the real author of the story?

**II. MINI ESSAYS** -- Write one or two paragraphs in response to each prompt.

There will be three "mini essay" prompts on the exam. From those three, you will select two. The three will in turn be drawn from this list of 10:

1. Describe Walt Whitman's poem, "Whoever You Are Holding Me Now in Hand." What is the poem about?
2. Describe Walt Whitman's poetic innovations.
3. What is Frederick Douglass's view of Christianity, as expressed in his 1845 narrative?
4. What is a koan? Describe what that has to do with a literary work that we read this semester.
5. What makes E.A. Poe's "Ligeia" a gothic tale? Why was Poe writing gothic tales in the late 1830s, according to Jill Lepore?

6. What is the theme of "Rip Van Winkle"?
7. Describe the literary device of the "unreliable narrator," as E. A. Poe uses it in stories we've read this semester.
8. What is the central action of chapter 3 of James Fenimore Cooper's novel, *The Pioneers*? What is the name of the main character which we, the readers, are meant to admire, and why do we admire him?
9. What does Hawthorne's short story, "My Kinsman, Major Molineux," suggest about what it means to be an American, in the first half of the 19th century?
10. What does honest old John Van Trompe mean, when he remarks, in chapter IX of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (on page 839), that "handsome uns has the greatest cause to run..." What major theme of the novel does this remark tap into?