

Study Guide for American Lit 1, Exam 2

Dr. O'Donnell, East TN State U. Last updated: April 23, 2019

Exam date and time: Monday April 29, 1:20-3:20pm.

This exam covers the material we've read in class since Spring Break. That includes Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*; and works by Anne Bradstreet, Phillis Wheatley, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Emily Dickinson, and Walt Whitman; plus two articles by Jill Lepore, one about Franklin and one about Jefferson; and an article by Paul Finkelman about Jefferson.

You are welcome to take the full two hour final exam period, to complete the exam. However, this exam, like exam 1, is designed to be completed in an hour and twenty minutes.

Like exam 1, exam 2 has two parts: I. 17 Short Answer Questions; each answer worth one point. II. 1 Mini Essay, worth up to 8 points. The maximum total for the whole exam is thus 25 points, and this exam is, in turn, like exam 1, worth 25% of your final grade.

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

I. SHORT ANSWER -- Write one or two sentences in response to each prompt. Be sure to write your responses in **complete sentences**. There will be 17 short answer prompts on the exam. All 17 of those will be drawn from this list of 26:

1. Where and when is *The Scarlet Letter* set?
2. Who are the two men who, along with Hester Prynne, form the triangle of main characters in *The Scarlet Letter*?
3. What appears in the sky, in chapter 12 of *The Scarlet Letter*, on the night Governor Winthrop dies?
4. What is the meaning of the title of chapter 13 of *The Scarlet Letter*, "Another View of Hester"?
5. In *The Scarlet Letter*, what object is left on the scaffold, the night of Governor Winthrop's death?
6. Why does Hester go to visit Chillingworth, in Chapter 14, "Hester and the Physician"? What is the aim of her visit?
7. Explain these lines from Anne Bradstreet: "Look to my little babes, my dear remains./ And if thou love thyself, or loved'st me,/ These O protect from stepdame's injury."
9. What does Thomas Jefferson think of Phillis Wheatley's poetry?
10. What is Thomas Jefferson's general view of manufacturing -- as compared to his view of farming -- as he expresses that in *Notes on the State of Virginia*?
11. According to Jill Lepore, what is the premise of William Wells Brown's 1853 novel?
12. What is Annette Gordon-Reed's 1997 book about?

13. Who is "Columbia," the central figure in Phillis Wheatley's poem, "To His Excellency General Washington"?
14. Who is the main character and primary speaker in "The Way to Wealth," by Ben Franklin?
15. Where and when did Ben Franklin write Part Two of the book that would become known as his autobiography?
16. Explain the origin of the name of the 4-lane road that runs east and west, 50 yards north of where you now sit.
17. Who is portrayed on the back of a two dollar bill? Connect that with a text we read this semester.
18. What is a syllogism?
19. What is synesthesia?
20. What is hymn meter?
21. What is Emily Dickinson's poem "There's a certain Slant of light" about?
22. What is Emily Dickinson's poem "I taste a liquor never brewed" about?
23. What is free verse?
24. What is Walt Whitman's poem, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryards Bloomed," about?
25. In Canto 7 of Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," to whom does the poet/ narrator address this final line: "Who knows, for all the distance, but I am as good as looking at you now, for all you cannot see me?"
26. In Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," what is the thrush's song about?

II. MINI ESSAY -- Write one or two paragraphs in response to a prompt. You will choose one mini essay prompt from a list of 3 that will appear on the exam. That list of three will in turn be drawn from the list of 5 included here:

1. What is the Enlightenment? How is it reflected in works we read this semester?
2. Compare and contrast the poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson.
3. Explain Thomas Jefferson's views on slavery, as expressed in his own writings, and considering Jill Lepore's commentary.
4. Explain Ben Franklin's views on religion.
5. Explain Thomas Paine's views on religion.