

NAME: _____

OT-ANG-211: American Literature

SAMPLE TEST

2016 SPRING

90 minutes/55 points
(0-26=1; 27-34=2; 35-41=3; 42-47=4; 48-55=5)

Here is your final exam. Write your name on the first page.

The exam consists of two parts:

Part I: pairing basic terms and authors and explaining the connection

Part II: identification and analysis of excerpts from the required readings

In order to pass the test you have to:

A) achieve at 6-10 points in Part I

B) achieve an overall 50+% on Parts I+II

If you achieve 0-5 points on Part I, you automatically fail the exam.

Do not look into the exams of other students. Do not use any notes, papers, books, handouts, and refrain from the use of all electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets, drones, cybernetic implants etc. All forms of cheating will result in you failing the test. This applies to any discussion after the exam until you submit your exam packet and leave the room.

Make sure that your handwriting is legible and that you spell the names of the authors, characters and titles correctly. I will not accept misspelled names.

Make sure you give the exact number of "things" asked for! If the question concerns TWO characteristics, and you give three, I will only take the first two into consideration, and disregard the third. If the question asks for the genre of a certain text, and you list two or more possible genres, only the first answer will be considered irrespective of the correctness of the later answers.

Good luck!

PART I

Below are 5 terms and 5 authors/titles. Make 5 pairs and explain the connection between the two elements of the pair (1-2 sentences max!) (10 points):

Walt Whitman, Congregationalist, *The Death of a Salesman*, William Carlos Williams, Flannery O'Connor, John Winthrop, free verse, memory play, imagism, Southern Gothic.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

PART II

Below you will find six excerpts from the texts in the required readings list. Read them and answer the questions in connection with them! Unless explicitly stated, the questions refer to the whole of the text, not only the selection! (45 points)

II/1

We had now fair sunshine weather, and so pleasant a sweet air as did much refresh us, and there came a smell off the shore like the smell of a garden. There came a wild pigeon into our ship, and another small land bird. [...] At Watertown there was (in the view of divers witnesses) a great combat between a mouse and a snake; and, after a long fight, the mousci prevailed and killed the snake. The pastor of Boston, Mr. Wilson, a very sincere, holy man, hearing of it, gave this interpretation: That the snake was the devil; the mouse was a poor contemptible people, which God had brought hither, which should overcome Satan here, and dispossess him of his kingdom.

i. Give the author and title of the text! (2)

ii. Which religious movement is the author associated with? (1)

iii. How was America seen by the followers of this movement, and what did they regard as their mission? Support your arguments with images from the text! (3)

II/2

Nevertheless, in this mansion of gloom I now proposed to myself a sojourn of some weeks. Its proprietor, Roderick Usher, had been one of my boon companions in boyhood; but many years had elapsed since our last meeting. A letter, however, had lately reached me in a distant part of the country -- a letter from him -- which, in its wildly importunate nature, had admitted of no other than a personal reply. The MS. gave evidence of nervous agitation. The writer spoke of acute bodily illness -- of a mental disorder which oppressed him -- and of an earnest desire to see me, as his best, and indeed his only personal friend, with a view of attempting, by the cheerfulness of my society, some alleviation of his malady.

(i) Give the author and title of the text! (2)

(ii) Give two examples for the Gothic genre from the text (you can use the whole story, not only the excerpt)! (2)

(iii) Explain the term *Doppelgänger* in connection of the text! (3)

II/3

*I felt a Funeral, in my Brain,
And Mourners to and fro
Kept treading – treading – till it seemed
That Sense was breaking through –*

*And when they all were seated,
A Service, like a Drum –
Kept beating – beating – till I thought
My Mind was going numb –*

*And then I heard them lift a Box
And creak across my Soul*

*With those same Boots of Lead, again,
Then Space – began to toll,*

*As all the Heavens were a Bell,
And Being, but an Ear,
And I, and Silence, some strange Race
Wrecked, solitary, here –*

*And then a Plank in Reason, broke,
And I dropped down, and down –
And hit a World, at every plunge,
And Finished knowing – then –*

(i) Give the author and the title of the text! (2)

(ii) List four characteristics of the poet's style. (2)

(iii) What do you think is the main theme of the poem? (1)

(iv) How does the poet express this theme? Give two examples for style or imagery that help emphasize the theme!
(4)

II/4

*So much depends upon
A red wheel barrow
Glazed with rain water
Beside the white chickens*

i. Give the author and title of the text! (2)

ii. What modernist poetic movement is the poem part of? (1)

iii. Give two characteristics associated with the poetic movement and explain them based on the poem! (4)

II/5

I couldn't forgive him or like him, but I saw that what he had done was, to him, entirely justified. It was all very careless and confused. They were careless people, Tom and Daisy – they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made.

i. Give the author and title of the text! (2 pts)

ii. Name two things that were “smashed up” in the narrative, and explain why. Refer to the whole text, not only the excerpt. (4 pts)

iii. Explain the term *flapper* in connection with the narrative! (2 pts)

II/6

THE MARVELLOUS THING IS THAT IT'S painless," he said. "That's how you know when it starts."

"Is it really?"

"Absolutely. I'm awfully sorry about the odor though. That must bother you."

"Don't! Please don't."

"Look at them," he said. "Now is it sight or is it scent that brings them like that?"

The cot the man lay on was in the wide shade of a mimosa tree and as he looked out past the shade onto the glare of the plain there were three of the big birds squatted obscenely, while in the sky a dozen more sailed, making quick-moving shadows as they passed.

"They've been there since the day the truck broke down," he said. "Today's the first time any have lit on the ground. I watched the way they sailed very carefully at first in case I ever wanted to use them in a story. That's funny now." "I wish you wouldn't," she said.

i. Give the author and title of the text! (2 pts)

ii. The author's style is often compared to an 'iceberg.' Explain what this means in connection with the excerpt! (3 pts)

iii. How are *memory* and *writing* (art) present in the narrative?(3 pts)