

# 淡江大學九十三年學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系

科目：美國文學

准帶項目請打「○」否則打「x」
簡單型計算機

本試題共 1 頁

本試題雙面印製

I. Briefly explain the following terms. 20% (2% each)

1. deism
2. naturalism
3. beat generation
4. ecocriticism
5. tall tales
6. sense of place
7. literary nationalism
8. anxiety of influence
9. new criticism
10. post-colonialism

II. Demonstrate your ability to read a literary text by reading the following poems by Emily Dickinson. Does her definition of madness and sanity provide any help to the reading of Poem 314, in which she presents her version of nature? Comment on that version of nature. What kind of a "portrait" do these two poems paint of the speaking voice? 20%

Poem 314

Nature—sometimes sears a Sapling—  
 Sometimes—scalps a Tree—  
 Her Green People recollect it  
 When they do not die—

Fainter Leaves—to Further Seasons—  
 Dumbly testify—  
 We—who have the Souls—  
 Die oftener—Not so vitally—

Poem 435

Much Madness is divinest Sense—  
 To a discerning Eye—  
 Much Sense—the starkest Madness—  
 'Tis the Majority  
 In this, as in All, prevail—

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本試題共 2 頁

Assent—and you are sane—  
Demur—you're straightway dangerous—  
And handled with a Chain—

- III. Dreams or reveries often figure prominently in Nathaniel Hawthorne's works. What purpose do they serve? To what extent is their use relevant to Hawthorne's theory of romance as formulated in his Preface to *The House of the Seven Gables*? Choose any of his short stories or novels and discuss the questions in detail. 20%
- IV. Realism, according to William Dean Howells, "is nothing more and nothing less than the truthful treatment of material." Many of his contemporaries, however, responded to this famous definition in different ways. Some writers, for example, put irony to thematic uses. Others relied on symbolism to add richness or subtlety to the texture of their works. Analyze any works from this period and comment on their authors' response to Howells's definition. 20%
- V. At the beginning of Wallace Stevens's "The Plain Sense of Things," the speaker speculates on the predicament modernist poets are faced with: "After the leaves have fallen, we return / To a plain sense of things. It is as if / We had come to the end of the imagination, / Inanimate in an inert savoir." Here the speaker's concern is voiced in the context of the changes in cultural or intellectual climate in the first half of the twentieth century. Did any other modernists express the same concern? Cite some of their texts and elaborate. 20%