

淡江大學 101 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系

科目：美國文學

考試日期：2月26日(星期日) 第4節

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Answer **FOUR** of the following questions. 25% each.

1. Choose ONE of the following authors and discuss his or her significance in Early American literature: Anne Bradstreet, Edward Taylor, Benjamin Franklin, J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, Thomas Jefferson.
2. One critic comments on Emerson: "The chief reference point for Emerson's radicalism is not gender, race, or class but his relationship to a phenomenon that manifested itself variously in economics, politics, philosophy, and literature, and that impressed contemporary observers for better or worse as the leading characteristic of the age: the emergence of the individual." Cite Emerson's works to support or elaborate on this critic's assertion.
3. The following passage is taken from Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*: "She [Hester Prynne] discerns, it may be, such a hopeless task before her. As a first step, the whole system of society is to be torn down, and built up anew. Then, the very nature of the opposite sex, or its long hereditary habit, which has become like nature, is to be essentially modified, before woman can be allowed to assume what seems a fair and suitable position." What task does Hester Prynne refer to?
4. In *Walden*, Thoreau remarks: "To be a philosopher is not merely to have subtle thoughts, nor even to found a school, but so to love wisdom as to live according to its dictates, a life of simplicity, independence, magnanimity, and trust. It is to solve some of the problems of life, not only theoretically, but practically." According to Thoreau, how are these "problems of life" to be solved?
5. What is the significance of the rise of regional writing in the latter half of the nineteenth century?
6. Analyze William Faulkner's fictional techniques or stylistic innovations in *The Sound and the Fury* or *As I Lay Dying*.