

Essay Questions for American Literature

Answer only FIVE of the following questions. 20 points each.

1. In what ways Foucault's ideas on history can be used to read American Literature?
2. In what sense can Thomas Pynchon, together with Donald Barthelme or John Barth, be considered a postmodern novelist, too?
3. Compare and contrast the following writers: a) Emerson, b) Thoreau, c) Hawthorne, d) Poe.
4. Discuss either Tennessee Williams or Arthur Miller or Eugene O'Neill in terms of: a) dramatic techniques, b) dramatic language, c) dramatic theme. Use their specific plays to support your arguments.
5. What is naturalism? Use either Stephen Crane's or Theodore Dreiser's works to explain your points.
6. Choose one out of the following African American writers and discuss how his/her ideas shapes contemporary scene in literary studies:
 - a. Alice Walker
 - b. Toni Morrison
 - c. W. E. B. du Bois
7. Comment on one of the following poets:
 - a. Emily Dickinson
 - b. Robert Frost
 - c. Wallace Stevens
 - d. Adrienne Rich