

淡江大學 95 學年度博士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：美國文學

准帶項目請打「V」

簡單型計算機

本試題共 1 頁

Answer the following questions as best as you can.

1. Darwinism, an obviously non-literary factor which played a significant role in the development of American literature toward the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th-century in the rise of naturalism and other writings, seems to be staging a comeback in the emergence of the literature of nature, and in the current controversy over “intelligent design” and evolution in the United States. Discuss this “literary Darwinism” by reading one or two naturalist texts from this period. In this context, discuss also how the interactions of literary and non-literary elements have shaped our attitudes toward literature. Focus your discussion on these two periods: the turn of 19th and 20th-century, and of 20th- and 21st- century. 40%
2. It has been argued that nature has been appropriated by mid-19th-century American writers in their effort to fashion an American cultural nationality. But how do these writers perceive/define nature? Is it a uniform concept? Discuss at least three of the following writers in your answer: Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Poe, Whitman and Dickinson. 30%
3. Read carefully and explicate one of the two poems below. 30%

A. The Oven Bird
--Robert Frost

There is a singer everyone has heard,
Loud, a mid-summer and a mid-wood bird,
Who makes the solid tree trunks sound again.
He says that leaves are old and that for flowers
Mid-summer is to spring as one to ten.
He says the early petal-fall is past,
When pear and cherry bloom went down in showers
On sunny days a moment overcast;
And comes that other fall we name the fall.
He says the highway dust is over all.
The bird would cease and be as other birds
But that he knows in singing not to sing.
The question that he frames in all but words
Is what to make of a diminished thing.

B. Much Madness Is Divinest Sense—
--Emily Dickinson

Much Madness is divinest Sense—
To a discerning Eye—
Much Sense—the starkest Madness—
Tis the Majority
In this, as in All, prevail—
Assent—and you are sane—
Demur—and you're straightway dangerous—
And handled with a Chain—