

淡江大學 96 學年度博士班招生考試試題

31

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：美國文學

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**Essay Questions:** Answer each of the following questions in a way that displays your grasp of and insights into the issue or issues

1. In the first half of the nineteenth century, theorists began to lobby for the existence of an American literature that would match the emerging political greatness of the nation. Choose one author from this period to discuss this new American-ness in their works. Use textual evidence to support your own arguments. (33 points)
2. Like any other national literature, the very notion of American literature--for instance, what counts as American literature? What should be included in an anthology of American literature? -- has been the site of national, cultural, and political intervention. Our current knowledge of American literature is always already an encounter between the inventions of the past and the interventions of the present. Since the 1980s, traditional notion of American literature has been subjected to a significant canon-revision. Describe this revisionist trend, its arguments and its impact on your understanding of American literature.(34 points)
3. What is manifest destiny? Explore the significance of this theme in the history of American literature. (33 points)