

# 淡江大學 97 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

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Answer TWO of the first three questions. Question No. 4 must be answered.

1. It is argued that in *The Scarlet Letter* Nathaniel Hawthorne creates a conflict of nature and culture: "The act of love that sanctifies itself in nature is for this culture an act of sin, requiring guilt, confession and penitence." Is the conflict resolved in the end? Or does either one of the binary pair prevail over the other (i.e. nature over culture or culture over nature)? 30%
  
2. What is Harlem Renaissance? What are the factors that contributed to the emergence of African American literature in the early twentieth century? What is the contribution of African American literature to American modernism? 30%
  
3. William Faulkner is, among other things, also a regional writer. He is, however, far from the "champion of the cohesive (white) Southern community that Southern critics in the Agrarian tradition construed." Instead, he "maps and critiques the complex coordinates of race, gender, and class in his fictional northern Mississippi Yoknapatawpha County." Use some of Faulkner's works to comment on his distinctiveness as a regional writer. 30%
  
4. Recently, a wide array of critics has been questioning the adequacy of a nation-based paradigm in literary studies. According to these critics, a literature calling itself, for instance, "American" implies that there is something exceptional about the United States. And the methodology built on this premise privileges the nation above all else. Do you agree? Cite some literary texts or criticism and offer your comments. 40%