

淡江大學 99 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

本試題共 4 大題， / 頁

PhD Examination - American Literature

Answer any four of the following five questions (each worth 25%):

1. American literature between 1820 and 1865 has been given in the past the names the American Renaissance and American Romanticism. i) Why would it have been distinguished so? Today, in many current anthologies of American literature, e.g., the latest edition of the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, literature between 1820 and 1865 is not called American Renaissance or American Romantic literature. ii) Why might these descriptive terms be discarded?
In answering parts i) and ii), identify and discuss works by any three or more writers of this period. You may choose but are not limited to writing about works by the following authors: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Greenleaf Whittier, Edgar Allan Poe, Margaret Fuller, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Jacobs, Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Douglass, Walt Whitman, and Herman Melville.
2. For most of the twentieth century, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was hardly contested as an American literary classic. Then, in the early 1990s, acrimonious debate over the alleged racist content of the novel flared up in schools and universities across the United States. The novel was attacked for portraying the black slave character Jim in stereotypically racist language. The appearance in the novel of the slur word "nigger" fueled the attack. Today, critical approaches to Twain and his writings no longer cursorily dismiss the question of his racism. In the words of scholar Eric J. Sundquist, "...*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* will never again have the unquestioned place it once had in the schooling of young American readers." In what ways can the novel be seen to endorse racist stereotypes in its characterization of Jim? In what ways might the novel continue to be defended as a text that attacks the institution of slavery and the racist attitudes towards black people during the antebellum and Civil War (1861-1865) periods?
3. In what ways does Robert Frost (1874-1963), a poet who wrote "between the wars" (1914-1945), exemplify the movement of modernism in American poetry and in what ways does he contrast with many of his modernist peers in his identity as a New England regionalist. In your answer, discuss at least two poems by Frost. You may choose but are not required to discuss two poems from the following: "Mending Wall," "Mowing," "The Death of the Hired Man," "After Apple-Picking," "The Wood-Pile," and "Birches."
4. Identify and discuss one or two works by two writers from the following list. i) What is the literary form or genre of these one or two works? ii) What questions or issues of American identity and political history are reflected and grappled with in these works? Please answer both parts of this question.
List of writers: Cochise (c. 1812-1874), Charlot (c. 1831-1900); Booker T. Washington (1856-1916); Wovoka (c. 1856-1932); Black Elk (1863-1950); Claude McKay (1889-1948); Zora Neale Hurston, (1891-1960); Jean Toomer (1894-1967), Langston Hughes (1902-1967); Richard Wright (1908-1960); Eudora Welty (1909-2001); Ralph Ellison (1914-1994); Tony Morrison (1931-); Maxine Hong Kingston (1940-); Gloria Anzaldua (1942-2004); Sandra Cisneros (1954-)
5. Discuss one or more postmodern works of poetry or prose published after 1945. Identify the author and title of the work(s) and the approximate date of publication. Then, identify and discuss any of the content, either formal content or thematic content, or both, which identify the text as postmodern.