

## 淡江大學 102 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 FOUR of the following questions. 25% each.

1. Commenting on William Dean Howells's conception of realism, one critic said: "Progressivists found it reactionary, modernists believed it banal, formalists criticized it as unliterary, deconstructivists exposed its mystification, feminists censured its masculinism, and new historicists have demystified Howells's realism as a romance." Develop your own argument in response to the statement.
2. In "The Poet," Emerson suggested that "Poets are liberating gods... they are free, and they make free"; he also called for a poet "without impediment, who sees and handles that which others dream of, traverses the whole scale of experience, and is representative of man." In what ways does Walt Whitman answer Emerson's plea for a true American poet?
3. "*The New Negro* was the first major literary attempt to revise the collective portrait of black America painted by W. E. B. Du Bois in *The Souls of Black Folk*. Others had an equal claim to be seen as promoters of the new movement in black cultural self-consciousness." Focus on one writer of the Harlem Renaissance and respond to this comment.
4. "Faulkner, like so many of his protagonists and narrators, kept coming back, and then coming back again, to events that seemed to resist understanding, to brim with undisclosed meaning." Choose one Faulkner's novel and discuss his literary innovations in light of this observation.
5. "The meaning and unity of his work lies not in any controlling intellectual idea and certainly not in a 'message,' but merely in the fact that each play is an experience of extraordinary intensity." Focus on one of Eugene O'Neill's plays and discuss how the playwright turned the theater into a vital force in American life.