

Essay 1: due Friday, 29 September by the start of class, on Sakai or by email

Instructions: write an essay of roughly five pages (1000-1200 words) on one of the following topics. You need not use outside sources, but if you do, cite those sources using parenthetical references and a bibliography (MLA format).

Your essay should provide plenty of evidence from the primary text(s) in the form of quotations; (citing from online source). Your essay should contain a title; pages should be numbered and your name and section number clearly marked on the first page of the document. Essay Questions. There are three questions on each topic covered from the first five weeks.

For help citing from electronic/other sources (and citing in general) please see the following site: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>

Fredrick Douglass

1. What is the importance of ancestry in *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*?
2. What elements of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* might be fictional/fictionalized, and why would he alter these claims? What leads you to make this claim and what is gained from fictionalization that could not be achieved in realism (It is not enough to simply claim for abolitionist ends)? It might be worthwhile to do a little research here, but it is not required.
3. How does Fredrick Douglass differentiate between himself as public figure/narrator/slave? What is the interplay between these identities?

Dubliners

1. The young James Joyce of *Dubliners* experiments with realism. There is a fluctuation between how he attempts to achieve realism from story to story. Choose two or three stories and compare how he structures realism. Be sure and come to a definition of the realism of each story.
2. How and to what extent is “The Dead” a critique of the British Empire? Miss Ivors is openly critical, but how does this feature into the work as a whole? Feel free to pull from other stories to bolster your claim, but focus primarily on the treatment of the British Empire in “The Dead”.
3. Analyze Christianity in *Dubliners*. How does Joyce portray Christianity (Catholic or Protestant) and how does the use of religion evolve from story to story.

The Turn of the Screw

1. Although he is absent for almost the entirety of the story the uncle plays a key role in organizing events. What is the importance of the absence of the uncle in *The Turn of the Screw*?
2. How does James use the term “knowledge/to know” within the short story? Does the meaning/use of the word change/evolve or remain consistent?

3. What is the importance of nature in *The Turn of the Screw*? Evaluate James' use of the natural and the manmade. It is certainly fine to focus on a very particular natural element (light, the lake, the outdoors) or some combination of various natural elements.

V. Woolf

1. How is perspective in "Kew Gardens" a rebuke of patriarchy? Use an analysis of narrative perspective in the work to formulate an argument against patriarchy.
2. Why is it necessary that Woolf create the character of Judith Shakespeare? Why must she use a fictional character instead of relying upon historical women writers?
3. Woolf and Fanon both use literary devices to relay philosophical arguments. Take either the side of Fanon or Woolf and explain how their style of argumentation aids their theories in ways unavailable to the other style. (Do not make claims that one or the other's theory is right or wrong but focus on the style).

Franz Fanon

1. Fanon uses a variety of metaphors to characterize the phenomenology of the black experience. Choose one such metaphor (the soul, masks, etc.) and explain Fanon's use of it. It is not enough to simply retell his argument, explain why **that** metaphor, and what that image does that might be impossible otherwise.
2. What would Fanon think of the "white envelope" (the texts by white author's proceeding Fredrick Douglass's narrative)? Use arguments within Fanon to detail what his opinion/critique of this feature of slave narratives might be.
3. Despite his condemnation of the treatment of blacks, Fanon uses the philosophy of many white theorists (Hegel, Marx, Sartre, Freud) choose one theorists and explain why it is necessary and/or problematic that Fanon uses this individual to bolster his own theories.