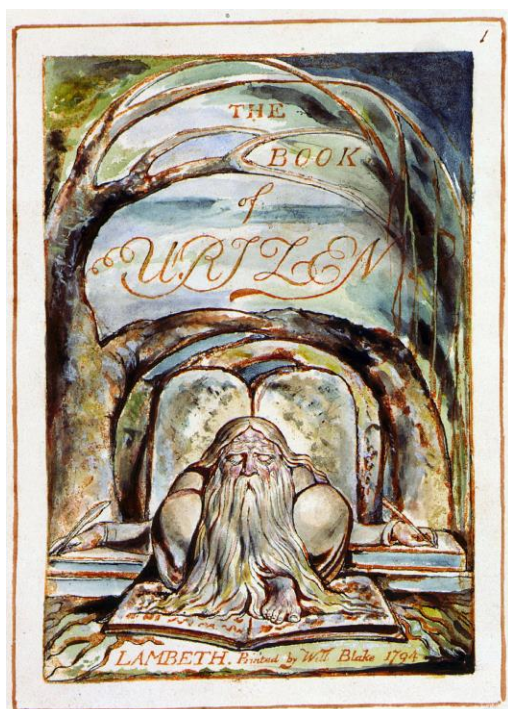


16 November 2016



William Blake, Title Page, *Book of Urizen* (1794)

## Final examination for English and Cultural Studies 1A03E (Section 02)

### 1. General remarks:

The course Senior T.A., Danielle Martak, and I will be marking your final examination. We both very much look forward to seeing what you've learned in this course. You've laboured diligently . . . and there is still lots of work to do. You've brought imagination, intellectual courage and rigour to the complex texts with which we've wrestled—poems, short stories, and soon, in the form of Thomas De Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*, a strange autobiographical narrative. In the final examination you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your comprehension of the course materials.

You are responsible for *all* the materials assigned in the course, including all materials discussed in *both* lectures and tutorials. Those materials also include the Study Notes posted on Avenue.

Note that at this point no more Study Notes will be posted. From the start, as you know, those notes have been designed to help you consolidate your knowledge of the course materials *and* to model for you how to read literature carefully and thoughtfully. Now you are ready to prepare your own Study Notes, and I encourage you to do so leading up to the final examination.

No examination examples or models are available for this course.

Note that you cannot rewrite the final examination or do any supplemental work for the course to help improve your final grade. Once the examination is graded and your final course grade is posted, you are free to ask for a breakdown of your final examination grade (i.e., what grade you received in Part A and Part B, respectively). *But please keep in mind that—barring an arithmetic error—Danielle and I cannot raise your final examination grade.*

The examination is scheduled for **9 December 2016**. You will need to check Mosaic to confirm the building and room where you are writing your examination. Don't forget to confirm the time, date, and place of the examination on Mosaic as well.

The final examination is divided into two parts:

Part A (50%): Multiple choice questions. These questions will test you on wide-range of elements in the course, including i) the significant fine-grained details of the assigned texts and ii) the literary terms, interpretive principles and guiding themes, problems and questions that have proved to be important to understanding the material.

Part B (50%): An essay question (one question only) in which you are asked to compare *and* contrast the work of a number of the authors on the course. In preparation for this part of the exam, consider the various guiding themes, problems and questions that have proved to be important to this course and that knit together our consideration of the assigned texts.

*Remember to bring four essential things to the final examination:*

- 1) Your McMaster University student ID
- 2) One or preferably two HB black lead pencils (to use on the machine-readable multiple choice exam answer sheet) with eraser.
- 3) One or preferably two functioning ink or ballpoint pens (with which to write your essay answer)
- 4) A watch (to pace yourself in the exam—see below)

This is a closed-book examination. During the examination, you are not allowed to have any other materials on your desk surface other than those items listed above.

Cellphones *must* be turned off and stowed away during the entire length of the examination.

When you finish your examination, ensure that you hand in the following materials:

- your copy of the examination itself
- your examination answer booklet(s)
- your machine-readable examination answer-sheet.

It is very important that you put your name, student number, and TA's name on the examination answer booklet(s).

The standardized "Student Instructions" for how to fill in an answer sheet for the multiple choice section of the examination are attached below. You are required to supply the following pieces of information: signature, student number, name, course name (**English 1A03E**), section number (**02**), instructor name (**David L. Clark**), and date (**9 December 2016**).

## **2. Writing the final examination**

a) Read the questions carefully. Whether you are answering the multiple choice questions or the essay question, it is important actually to *answer the question* at hand. I know this sounds obvious, but it does help to pause and read specifically what is being asked of you. So, it bears repeating: *Answer the question*. Consider carefully what precisely is being asked of you by the question before you begin to write your answer.

b) Be specific. In your essay answer, remember to avoid resorting to broad generalizations about the assigned materials. Instead, move rapidly to a discussion that is consistently rooted in particular details in the literary texts. Danielle and I will be looking for evidence that you are alive to the details of the literary texts and that you have read them rather than heard *about* them. Be accurate: know the names of the authors and the titles of the texts that they laboured to create. Know the definition and spelling of terms and concepts that we introduced into the course. Extra marks will be given to students who are not only able to discuss particular details but also able accurately to cite or quote words, phrases, sentences and verses from the assigned materials and to discuss those words, phrases, sentences and verses.

c) Time yourself. The examination is two hours in length, one hour for Part A and one hour for Part B. Each part is weighted equally, i.e. worth 50% of the total examination grade. Ensure that you allocate your time accordingly. Spend no more than 60 minutes for each Part of the examination.

d) Take a deep breath. You've listened carefully to your TA's and to me, you've kept up with the assigned materials and have read them with the rigour and imagination for which they passionately call, and you've crafted your essays with care. The three Quizzes have helped you focus on the fine-grained details of assigned texts, where, as you now know, so much of what makes literature important and complicated takes place. Read the questions. Answer the questions. Take a moment before you answer the essay question to think about the specific argument that you want to make, the assigned materials you want to work with, and the particular examples and details from the assigned materials to which you want to refer. Take a moment to organize your thoughts and briefly to map out how you intend to unfold them. Remember: an essay answer is not quickly disgorging everything you know about a literary text. An essay answer involves making an argument and thus *shaping* an argument—an argument shaped by the question. Answer the essay question. Demonstrate your knowledge of the specific terms, forms,

problems, concepts, and reading strategies to which I have drawn your attention in class and in the Study Notes. Demonstrate in your essay answer that you know the details of the texts and understand their importance. Be specific, pointing to and working with *particular* examples, moments, turns, forms, and problems that characterize the literary texts that you have selected to discuss in your answer.

We've still got more work to do, but I want to take this opportunity to say that you've been an enormous pleasure to teach. I thank you for being such an engaging and engaged class. Danielle and I very much look forward to reading your examinations.

David L. Clark

**YOUR EXAMINATION RESULT DEPENDS UPON PROPER ATTENTION TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS.**

1. On side 1 (red side) of the form, in the top box, in pencil, print your student number **(NOTE: 9 digits)**, name, course name, section number, instructor name and date in the spaces provided. Then you **MUST** sign in the space marked SIGNATURE.
2. In the second box, with a pencil, mark your student number, exam version number, and course section number in the space provided and fill in the corresponding bubble numbers underneath.
3. To indicate your answers, mark only **ONE** choice from the alternatives (1,2,3,4,5 or a,b,c,d,e) provided for each question. The question number is to the left of the bubbles. Make sure that the number of the question on the scan sheet is the same as the question number on the test paper.
4. Pay particular attention to the Marking Directions on the form.
5. Begin answering questions using the first set of bubbles, marked "1".

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