

Final Exam Review Guide:

Exam to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 10:45am, our classroom (PH 119)

Exam will be **Open Book**—Bring all our course texts. You may not need to use them all, but you will want to refer to them, especially during the essay portions of the exam. The exam will cover material from second half of the course, after the Midterm. **There will be two sections:** a section of short-answer questions (about 15-20 questions worth 3 points each—like the Midterm), and a long (30-point) essay question, asking you to reflect on significant connections between readings.

Possible Essay Topics:

Food: Scarcity/Luxury: How is food associated with dream states? With sensory delight and luxury? How is it dangerous/addictive/poisonous? Consider the importance of food: which texts have featured it and how?

British contact with other cultures / British empire: Which texts have featured this? What perspective do the texts show about the empire?

Generations and violent behavior in connection with Nature / evolution/civilization

*Compare/contrast use of FRAME NARRATORS in *Frankenstein* and “The Man Who would be King,” and consider how the frame narrators are involved with the main characters/inside narrators in each. What’s the point of the outside frame in each?

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON: “Lady of Shalott”: What’s the curse and how does it work? Why/how is she weaving...sight issues: seeing reflections in mirror vs. reality. How does her life change as she dies?...Lady and the arts—weaving→ music (transient--singing to death)

stanzas from “In Memoriam”—connected to religion and science controversy: horror of extinctions/purposeless existence—chaos and death: “Nature red in tooth in claw” “ So careful of the type? But no!”

CHARLES DARWIN: “On the Origin of Species,” and “The Descent of Man”

Why important? Evolution, sexual selection, survival of the fittest, competition for existence, importance of females making reproductive decisions, birds with aesthetics--refined tastes in patterned plumage.... Perspective on humanity vs. animal life? Elevation of animal intelligence?

How applicable to literature—representations of humanity and nature?

Social Darwinism applications (T. H. Huxley: Brit civilization as gardening and weeding, Herbert Spence)...perspectives on poverty/industrial cities

Victorians and religious faith—Tennyson: “Nature red in tooth and claw”...anxiety over loss of species, extinctions...purpose in existence?

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING:

Who was George Sand? How did Barrett represent her in two related/contrasting ways?

“The Cry of the Children”: what social issue does this address? Images and ideas? Children, machines, perspective on religion

Context in the Hungry Forties?

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI:

“Goblin Market”: children’s poetry w/ adult themes? Brit empire perspective → goblins—merchants of empire

sexuality, drugs, poisons/antidotes, religious connotations/symbolism: price of the fruit from Tree of Knowledge... costs—purchasing

what must Lizzie do to rescue Laura? Active vs. passive virtue...intervention

sisters—analogy for women divided by social classes/ virtuous women vs. prostitutes?

EMILY BRONTË: *WUTHERING HEIGHTS*:

Frame narration (Lockwood and Nelly Dean)—connection to central plot?

Yorkshire moors and nature in this novel: cuckoo birds and feathers on the moors

--Why does Nelly Dean compare Heathcliff to a cuckoo?

Violence / dogs—pivotal episodes in frame and within novel?

Wuthering Heights vs. Thrushcross Grange family lives

Cathy 1 vs. Cathy 2—name changes reflecting movement between households?

Neglect and forced servitude: which characters at WH?

Plot out the family relationships...

Generational traits returning over time? The eyes of Cathy 1...

Reading/education, literacy—how important in second half of novel?

CHARLES DICKENS: *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

Context in the Hungry Forties?

Victorian era elements in the ghosts (ghost train in the house!)

Forms taken by the ghosts—what’s distinctive about each?

People Scrooge cares/should care/has cared about: Old Fezziwig, Belle, Fred, Bob Cratchit and his family (Tiny Tim)

Scrooge’s emotional states. (bah humbug! Emotions during ghost tour, and after—Laughter!)

Scrooge’s impact on people—before vs. after he changes

Ignorance and Want

How did this text help to redefine Christmas as a labor holiday?

Context in the Hungry Forties?

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE:

The Hound of the Baskervilles: popular fiction in magazines, detective story of the Victorian era

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson—relationship?

Scientists and expertise in the book: which characters are experts in what fields? (Mortimer, “Stapleton”, etc)

Holmes’ methods—distinct in this book: Watson apparently detecting on his own?

Feminist edge—helping women against abusers / predators: Laura Lyons, Beryl Garcia “Stapleton”

Hereditary traits → madness of the aristocracy

Dartmoor setting: comparison to Wuthering Heights? Landscape huts

Atavism/ Regression (reversion to primal forms/ impact of Darwin’s ideas: not just evolution but de-evolution!); brute force / ferocity of the villain

Hound: how was it made demonic? What expertise required?

RUDYARD KIPLING: distinctive outlook on British empire

Ordinary soldiers, station clerks...possibilities for power and importance among natives

British empire in India...infrastructure (trains, newspapers, telegraph)...vs. Afghani frontier

Hybridity—definition, examples?

Mercantilism and Evangelism: Brit Victorian Empire
Education—making the natives English?

“The Man Who Would Be King”: frame narrative—use of trains and newspaper office to set up context
for the inside narrative: Daniel Dravot and Peachey Carnahan

--use of media: maps, encyclopedia—illusions of control

--Where are they going? How?

--desire to be Kings—how is it attained? Godhood?

--Masonic symbols... hybridity

--Dravot wanting Empire—view of natives as English, seeking a queen

--goals to bring kingdom of Karfiristan to Queen Victoria--knighthood

--biting mortality→consequences?