

CORE106-10 Fall 2015
December 15, 2015
Prof. McDonald
Final Exam

This blue book exam has four sections. **Put your name on the front of the blue book, and use it to write all of your responses.** You can use this instruction sheet for scratch paper if you like, but do not use it to submit your answers. The instruction sheet is yours to keep.

This is an open book exam. The readings and your notes written on paper are acceptable reference material during the exam. However, you are not allowed to use electronic searches during the exam period.

The exam is worth 20% of your total grade.

The usual expectations and warnings about academic honesty apply. This exam is open book, which means you can refer to your books and notes during the exam. **Electronic devices are not allowed**, unless you are receiving accommodation in the Testing Center for them.

Take as much of the class time as you like, but the exam will stop promptly at 11:30 am. Last but not least, thank you for a wonderful semester.

Section I: (30%)

In 1-2 sentences each, explain the role of the following 10 characters from *Gilead* and *The Graduate*. **Your responses should be as brief as possible.**

1. Jack Boughton
2. Mrs. Robinson
3. Edward Boughton
4. Louisa Ames
5. John Ames (The Grandfather)
6. John Ames (The Grandson and Narrator)
7. Benjamin Braddock
8. Jack Boughton's Common Law Wife
9. Elaine Robinson
10. Feuerbach

Section II (30%)

Write a short explanation of the following six passages from the Watts, White, and Wallace readings. Each explanation should be three sentences or fewer.

"To understand music, you must listen to it. But so long as you are thinking, 'I am listening to this music,' you are not listening." (Watts 87).

"We must make a clear distinction between belief and faith, because, in general practice, belief has come to mean a state of mind which is almost the opposite of faith." (Watts 24).

"The moralist is therefore a technician who is consulted on these problems as one consults an architect on building a house or an engineer on erecting a bridge. " (Watts 119).

"On any person who desires such queer prizes, New York will bestow the gift of loneliness and the gift of privacy." (White, Page 1, paragraph 1).

"Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. But the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful, it's that they're unconscious. They are default settings." (Wallace, page 8 of the 10 page pdf posted online. This passage is an entire paragraph.)

"To pursue [the future] is to pursue a constantly retreating phantom, and the faster you chase it, the faster it runs ahead. This is why all the affairs of civilization are rushed, why hardly anyone enjoys what he has, and is forever seeking more and

more. Happiness...will consist, not of solid and substantial realities, but of such abstract and superficial things as promises, hopes, and assurances." (Watts 61).

Section III (30%)

Write a brief essay in response to one of these three prompts. Pick one, and indicate your choice by writing "Option I", "Option 2", or "Option 3" at the top of your response. **Respond to only one option.**

Option I: Compare the depictions of the parent-child relationship in *Gilead* and *The Graduate*. Why is there disappointment in both stories? How are parents disappointed in their children, and vice versa?

Option II: Suppose Alan Watts accompanies Benjamin Braddock on his drive from L.A. to Berkeley. What would Watts observe about Benjamin's situation? What would Watts suggest to improve Benjamin's prospects for happiness?

Option III: Identify and explain consistencies between Watts's analysis and Wallace's commencement address. Then, using Wallace's characterization, explain why a liberal education useful to someone pursuing the kind of life that Watts is trying to promote.

Section IV (10%)

Pick one book that you thought was the most rewarding from this group of four titles: Bakewell's *How to Live* on Montaigne, DeLillo's *Libra*, Robinson's *Gilead*, and Watts's *The Wisdom of Insecurity*. Explain your choice, and then recommend whether that book stay or go in the next iteration of this class.