**CORE106 Section 10 Fall 2015**

**October 23, 2015**

**Prof. McDonald**

**Midterm Exam Study Guide**

The midterm exam will be a one hour, open book in-class exam next Friday, October 30. Please bring a blue book to write your answers. All of the readings to date will be potential content for the exam, with the exception of the Orwell essay.

The exam will comprise ten percent of your total grade.

The exam will have three sections:

1. Character identification. You’ll explain the identity and role of figures that we have have covered in any of the readings thus far. All of the characters will have significance to the stories and essays we have read; there will be no minor characters from Libra, for example. This section will comprise 40% of the midterm grade.
2. Colloquium review. There will be one essay question based on the Virginia Woolf colloquium lectures, available online. This question will comprise 30% of the midterm grade.
3. General essay question. You will write a essay in response to a question that will ask you to integrate themes from two or more of the readings. This question will comprise 30% of the midterm grade.

Short answers will suffice for the first question. The second and third questions will be graded on the following criteria, equally weighted:

* The clarity and precision of the theme presented in the response. Your essay should present a thesis that answers the prompt directly, and all of its content should revolve around the thesis.
* The supporting evidence from the reading. Your primary goal in these essays is to apply your mastery and understanding of the readings to support your thesis statement, in an impromptu setting.
* The quality of the analysis. Is your application and interpretation of the evidence you present relevant to your thesis? You should be able to explain the meaning of the evidence your present, and resist the temptation to unload a “data dump”.

Your writing should be clear, but realize this is a handwritten, impromptu exercise. You do not need to deliver the same quality of composition that you provide in your typewritten papers. Simplicity and clear organization are the most helpful attributes of a successful in-class essay.

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Notes and suggestions:

* This is open book, which can be a curse, not a blessing. Prepare as if it weren’t open book, and then have the books available as backup. Your time will be limited, and you do not want to read through the material extensively during the exam period.
* I considered making this a take home exam, but I have found that the time investment of take home exams is much greater. Despite the tension of the moment, I think an in-class exam is easier and takes less of your time, though your mileage may vary.
* The final exam will be comprehensive, so prepare in a way that you can reuse your work easily and quickly as the final approaches. Think of the midterm as a study guide for the final.