**Statement of Purpose**

First draft

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**Outline**

Introduction (Paragraph 1)

* What prompts me to keep studying literature

Body (Paragraph 2)

* What I have done and why I am the fit for this graduate program: MSt in English and American Studies

Body (Paragraph 3)

* My research proposal and my short-term goal for studying

Body + Conclusion (Paragraph 4)

* Why I choose University of Oxford and my long-term goal

“That you are here—that life exists and identity, That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse,” wrote the great poet Walt Whitman. I first encountered this line while watching \*Dead Poet Society\* at a young age, and it haunted me for years. It wasn't until I began my English studies at National Taiwan Normal University that I truly grasped its meaning. During my undergraduate studies, I immersed myself in diverse literary genres and periods, from classical to contemporary works. My academic journey included rigorous coursework, research projects, and active participation in promoting literature. One of my favorite experiences was leading reading groups. I vividly remember a group member telling me that our discussions profoundly impacted her perspective on literature and life. This moment reaffirmed my belief in the transformative power of literature and the importance of sharing it. It was then that I fully understood Whitman's message: each of us has the potential to contribute our unique voice to the ever-evolving narrative of life, inspiring me and driving my pursuit of graduate studies at the University of Oxford.

My primary interest lies in contemporary American literature, motivating me to apply for the Master of Studies in English and American Studies. Alongside taking courses and seminars on American literature, I received funding from the National Science and Technology Council to conduct research on the American poet Anne Sexton. In my study, I explored the intricate interplay between mortality, creativity, and feminist perspectives within Sexton's poetry, framed within the context of boredom. My main contribution was to elaborate on how boredom can challenge conventional understandings and serve as a wellspring of creative inspiration. While studying Sexton's poetry, I became deeply fascinated by her psychological conditions and how they were depicted in her work. After completing this research, I redirected my focus to explore the theory of psychoanalysis and its relationship with literature, which is also what I would like to develop in my graduate study.

My research proposal focuses on exploring African-American texts through the lens of Carl Jung’s concept of the collective unconscious. Jung's theory posits that the collective unconscious consists of structures of the unconscious mind shared among all beings of the same species, including archetypes—universal symbols and themes that transcend cultures. Historically, African-American literature has been marginalized, with its rich and heroic narratives often overlooked within dominant cultural discourses. I propose to utilize Jung’s theory of the collective unconscious to uncover the universal themes and archetypes present in African-American narratives. By doing so, my study aims to establish a new reading framework that honors the unique cultural context of these works while underscoring their universal human relevance. This approach will contribute to the decolonization of literary studies. In the short term, I seek to deepen my understanding of the literary history of African-American texts and theoretical frameworks such as Postcolonial Psychoanalysis and Critical Race Theory. By applying these frameworks to African-American literature, I aim to contribute original research to the field.

Choosing the University of Oxford for my graduate studies is driven by its unparalleled academic reputation, distinguished faculty, and vibrant intellectual community. Oxford’s rich history in the study of literature and its commitment to fostering academic excellence make it the ideal place for me to pursue my long-term goal of earning a PhD and becoming a scholar and educator in the field of literature. I also hope to work with Professor Ankhi Mukherjee. Her expertise in Postcolonial Theory and Psychoanalysis will be invaluable to my research. Professor Mukherjee's work provides a unique opportunity for me to gain insights from a leading scholar whose expertise aligns perfectly with my research interests. Additionally, I believe the Rothermere American Institute can provide the resources I need for my research, and I envision myself contributing to the center by aligning with its mission to improve public understanding of the United States. The MSt in English and American Studies at Oxford is not merely an academic endeavor but a stepping stone towards a lifelong commitment to literary scholarship and education.