

Midterm Examination Review

The midterm is worth 50 points or 10% of your final grade this semester. Please bring a blank blue book or blank loose-leaf paper for your answers. You may not use your books or your notes. There will be two parts to the exam.

Part I (20 points). This question will appear on the midterm exam, though the list of terms will be reduced from 12 to 6. Define four of the concepts (listed below) as they have been used or appeared in this course. Explain what the term means. Indicate its theoretical origins or source. Each definition should be about a paragraph long.

abjection

affective fallacy

melancholia

affective alliances

sympathy (Smith)

passion (Spinoza)

cognitive-evaluative (theory of emotion)

the sublime

serviceable habits

catharsis

surprise-startle

amygdala

Part II (30 points). I will provide you with two questions selected from the following list. You will write an essay in response to one of them.

1. Choose a popular *song* or poem from the nineteenth-century and write an essay about its appeal to the emotions. To which emotions does it appeal? What emotional reaction does the text intend to provoke? How does it make that appeal? For what purpose is it making this emotional appeal? What is most significant or interesting about this emotional appeal?
2. Choose one of the *literary* texts we've studied so far this semester and write an essay about its representation of emotion. How does it represent emotion? Which emotions are depicted and why? In what ways is the representation of emotion important to the meaning of the text?
3. Write an essay on the place of fear in the work of Edgar Allan Poe and use two specific texts by Poe to illustrate and defend your thesis. How does Poe represent fear? In what ways is this representation of fear central to the thematic or aesthetic concerns of the stories? When and how do these stories frighten readers? Why do these stories attempt to elicit fear in readers?
4. Write an essay on the place of pity or sympathy in the plays of Tennessee Williams and use two specific plays by Williams to illustrate and defend your thesis. How does Williams represent pity or sympathy? In what ways is this representation of pity/sympathy central to the thematic, artistic, or formal concerns of the plays? When and how do these plays arouse pity or feelings of sympathy in readers? Why do these plays attempt to elicit pity/sympathy in readers?