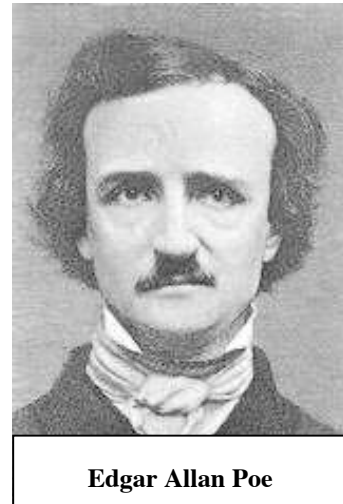


Historical Analysis

Choose Wisely. From our reading schedule, choose one of the critical/theoretical texts written before 1920. Then choose a literary text from, roughly, the same period. The literary text should be a famous literary text that I've read *or* a lyric poem or other very short literary text no longer than two pages. (For the latter, it may be a poem or short text that I do not know, but please attach a copy of the text to your paper).

Option One. Compare the two texts in a way that helps illustrate important features, qualities, themes, styles, or ideas that typify or characterize the literary period from which both emerged. For example, how do Horace's "Ars Poetica" and *The Aeneid* of Virgil both illustrate some important aspects of the Age of Augustus in Rome? You may focus on similarities, differences (perhaps to emphasize tensions within a period), or both.



Option Two. Use the critical/theoretical text to enable an analysis and interpretation of the literary text. For instance, you might use Sidney's "An Apology for Poetry" to examine *one* of the poems from his sonnet sequence, *Astrophil and Stella*. Again, you may focus on similarities (how the poem might serve as a model for the theory, for example), differences (how the poem fails or exceeds the doctrine in the theory, for example), or both.

Proposals and Conferences. Please submit a brief proposal (a short paragraph) for this paper to me via email by Friday, February 17th. The proposal should let me know which option you've chosen and which literary text you'd like to use. Alternatively, we might meet for a proposal conference to discuss the assignment and the texts you'd like to use. I highly recommend a conference if you are not certain the literary text and theoretical text are from the same period and/or if you'd like to write on some long literary text that you suspect I've never read (like Richardson's *Clarissa*, which I don't think I'd have time to read for this assignment).

Reminders. The paper should have a good title. It should be typed and double-spaced. Please use MLA style to cite and provide information on your sources; this is especially if you use any historical sources beyond *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*

Due Date. Thursday, February 23.

Length. 4 pages.