

Components of the Exam:

Short Answer: Focus on twentieth-century authors and works. This will include identification of key passages, correct titles of works, names of authors, definitions of key terms AND the ability to apply these terms to more than one text, and your ability to understand a passage's significance to the entire text, not just one or two passages.

Short answers are just that: SHORT. Do not write essay length responses or you will run out of time. Be able to directly answer a question—all parts of it—in a few, well stated and accurate, sentences. Provide significant textual evidence (paraphrased or summarized) to support your answer.

Know and be able to correctly spell the names of authors and texts.

Essay Section: Comprehensive. Know dates and time periods of all works read. Know how to write a complete essay. Remember that an essay is not just one paragraph. It requires at least four or five. It requires an introduction, a clear and direct thesis sentence that directly addresses the topic of the essay, supporting paragraphs and a conclusion of some sort. It needs substantive proof for each assertion you make about the topic, so consider having relevant, direct quotations on your one-page sheet of notes.

FAQs:

Q. How do I study for identification of authors, passages, and titles of works?

- a. Reread your index cards and remind yourself of plot details and / or genre elements: what happens in the work? What is the plot or subject matter? Is it a poem, a play, a short story or a novel? Re-familiarize yourself with the powerpoints. What passages did I think were important enough to put on the powerpoint and why?
- b. Determine genre: is a specific text poetry, drama, non-fiction, or prose fiction? Know the differences between the types of genres we've read.
- c. Memorize titles, authors, and characters of specific works. Yes, memorization IS a valid study tool. And one you should learn to use. If you know the subject and the genre of a work, you should be able to identify the author and the work with very little effort. For example, Beckett was not writing non-fiction.

Q. How do I study the significance of a passage?

- a. Read and deeply consider the passages provided during class lecture on the powerpoints. Consider how these passages, listed by page numbers (or line numbers) on my powerpoint slides, relate to themes, leit motifs, or other aspects of the entire work the passage is from.
- b. Re-read your own class lecture notes, not just the powerpoints. Taking in-class notes will help you understand how a passage relates to the theme (main ideas) of the entire text. If you don't take notes, you aren't able to study as well.

Q. How do I study for questions that ask me to define and apply key terms?

- a. Do more than repeat or rephrase the definition I've given of a given term. Figure out how to APPLY each term to specific passages or to entire works. Most terms apply to more than one text, so know how a term might apply to another text we've read. For example, how does dich an sich apply to both Stevens and Mann? Does the term apply to any other works we've read since the beginning of the semester or not? Which ones? Why?

Q. How do I write an effective, comprehensive essay?

- a. Read the Norton Introductions to both authors and entire time periods. These introductions can help you organize your study guide.
- b. Look at all the texts we've read since the beginning of the semester. Re-examine the powerpoints. Determine which ideas (themes) seem to run through all three sections of the course: 17th-18th centuries, 19th-century, and 20th-century. Which texts apply BEST for discussing specific themes
- c. Consider how key ideas (available in the lecture notes online) affect more than one of the texts. Construct possible essay questions based on lectures. Are there specific threads of thought that affect many works? Study how different works approach these ideas and issues. You know I think so, therefore you should consider how different works use or depict similar ideas. For example, if I were to ask you to write an essay using a work from the 18th-century, a work from the 19th-century and a work from the 20th-century which authors would work best together and why?