



HÁSKÓLI ÍSLANDS

Prófbók A

LITERARY THEORY (40% of final grade)

05.15.18

Thursday 8 May 2008

Kennitala: _____

Name: _____

The exam consists of 3 parts – you have 3 hrs (leave 30 min. for review):

I 10% = 5 questions @ 0.2 points each - approx. 20 min. (to 9:30)

II 10% = 5 questions @ 0.2 points each - approx. 20 min. (to 9:50)

III 80% = 2 questions @ 40.0 points each - approx. 100 min. (to 11:30)

A. IDENTIFY THE THEORY (10%)

1. In analyzing "Bartleby the Scrivener," you focus on how the narrator treats his employees, noting that many of the conditions of their employment are inhumane. You assert that it is no surprise that Bartleby rebels, given these oppressive conditions, and that the author was being critical of these types of working conditions. Where do you come from?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New criticism/liberal humanism | <input type="checkbox"/> Marxism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Structuralism | <input type="checkbox"/> New historicism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Structuralism/deconstruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural materialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postmodernism | <input type="checkbox"/> Postcolonialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychoanalytic criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Narratology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/gay criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecocriticism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminist criticism | |

2. In analyzing "Marriage is a Private Affair," you examine the clash of modern and traditional practices. In particular, you focus on the practice of arranged marriages, a tradition still practiced in many countries, discussing how people in Iceland currently view this practice. Where do you come from?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New criticism/liberal humanism | <input type="checkbox"/> Marxism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Structuralism | <input type="checkbox"/> New historicism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Structuralism/deconstruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural materialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postmodernism | <input type="checkbox"/> Postcolonialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychoanalytic criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Narratology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/gay criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecocriticism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminist criticism | |

3. In analyzing "Everyday Use," you criticize the story, saying that the author has created a binary, with homegrown wisdom on top and education on the bottom. You decide to turn this binary around, putting education on top. You argue that the mother and Maggie could have learned more about their culture through education, enhancing their appreciation and understanding of their cultural heritage. Where do you come from?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New criticism/liberal humanism | <input type="checkbox"/> Marxism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Structuralism | <input type="checkbox"/> New historicism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Structuralism/deconstruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural materialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postmodernism | <input type="checkbox"/> Postcolonialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychoanalytic criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Narratology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/gay criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecocriticism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminist criticism | |

4. In discussing "A Loaf of Bread," you focus on symbols, characters, and theme and how these various elements help to create a unity in the work. You don't discuss the author, the reader, or any considerations outside the text itself.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New criticism/liberal humanism | <input type="checkbox"/> Marxism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Structuralism | <input type="checkbox"/> New historicism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Structuralism/deconstruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural materialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postmodernism | <input type="checkbox"/> Postcolonialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychoanalytic criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Narratology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/gay criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecocriticism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminist criticism | |

5. In analyzing "How to Talk to a Hunter," you discuss the stereotypical views of women, men, and relationships expressed by the characters, focusing on the advice of both the female and male friends in particular. You assert that the author is highly critical of these stereotypes.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New criticism/liberal humanism | <input type="checkbox"/> Marxism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Structuralism | <input type="checkbox"/> New historicism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Structuralism/deconstruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural materialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postmodernism | <input type="checkbox"/> Postcolonialism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychoanalytic criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Narratology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian/gay criticism | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecocriticism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminist criticism | |

B. FIVE SHORT QUESTIONS (10%)

These are questions about some major issue that we have covered this semester. Please answer in **3-4 sentences**. Name a theorist where applicable.

1. What is a "gynotext"?

2. What is a "simulacrum"?

3. What is "the pleasure principle"?

4. What is "the hermeneutic code"?

5. Explain Hegel's pattern of "dialectical reasoning"

C. TWO PREPARED ESSAYS (80%)

Pick **two** essay questions – **one** from ANY TWO of the sections below. Please use the exam book – "Prófbók".

N.B. PLEASE WRITE IN EVERY OTHER LINE IN THE EXAM BOOK – THAT IS, LEAVE AN EMPTY LINE BETWEEN THE WRITTEN LINES (which means that you should write **at least** 2-3 pages on each of the two subjects).

1. Feminism - Lesbian/Gay Criticism - (pick only one of these questions)

- a) Compare and discuss Elaine Showalter's ideas of the three stages of women's writing: *the feminine phase*, *the feminist phase*, and *the female phase*, on the one hand, and the idea of *adopt phase*, *adapt phase* and *adept phase* talked about in postcolonial theory.
- b) Discuss the purpose of lesbian/gay criticism, and identify more than one method of literary analysis within this field.

- c) Would the movie *Brokeback Mountain* support what gay theory advocates? Placing yourself as a supporter of gay/lesbian theory, would you condemn or praise this movie?

2. Marxism, New Historicism and Cultural Materialism (pick only one of these questions)

- a) Is there a noticeable class distinction and/or a social conflict in Shirley Jackson's short story "The Lottery"?
- b) According to Peter Barry (p. 158), there are four kinds of Marxism criticism. Discuss each one these, compare and contrast.

3. Post-Colonial criticism, Narratology and Ecocriticism (pick only one of these questions)

- a) Peter Barry discusses four characteristics of postcolonial criticism on pp. 194-197 in *Beginning Theory*. What are these, and how are they portrayed?
- c) Chinua Achebe indicts Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* (1902) as "a reflection of European racist assumptions of the 'darkness'" or inferiority of Africans. Is his statement reasonable?
- d) Analyze Edgar Allan Poe's Poe's short story, "The Oval Portrait" from a narratologist point of view.
- b) Analyze Hemingway's short story, "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" from an ecologist point of view.

END OF EXAM