

# Final Exam

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## Overview

The final exam will consist of a combination of short answer questions on vocabulary (25% of the exam) and short essay questions (75% of the exam). For the short answer questions, you will need to write a sentence or two for each question to define a selection of vocabulary terms taken from the terms included in your online quizzes. For the short essay questions, you will be asked to respond in writing to a number of questions related to the major concepts and readings of the course, such as “Plot” or Edith Wharton’s “Roman Fever.” Your short essay responses should be more than just a few sentences. Instead, they should be detailed responses with multiple paragraphs in which you explore the implications of the questions in relation to the course concepts and readings.

The purpose of this exam will be for you to demonstrate your careful consideration of all the issues we have discussed throughout the semester. Anything we read for class or discussed will be fair game. However, this exam will not be an attempt to test you on obscure details from the readings. So long as you have come prepared for class each time we met, read all the assigned materials, and paid attention during our discussions, I would expect you to do well on the exam. You will need to be prepared, however, to consider the questions presented carefully and then provide a detailed, organized, and thoughtful response.

## Example Short Answer Questions:

- Define “Plot”
- Define “Protagonist”

## Example Short Essay Questions:

- Explain how Plot, Setting, and Character are interconnected in William Faulkner’s “Barn Burning.”
- What value, if any, does reading James Joyce’s “Eveline” provide?

## Books/Notes/Internet

The exam will occur in two parts. In the first part, the short answer questions on vocabulary terms, you cannot use any books or notes. Once you have completed that section of the exam and turned in your short answers to me, you will be able to use any books, prepared notes, or web materials you want for the rest of the exam as you respond to the short essay questions. You will then also be permitted to review your reading journal entries. I will also provide a complete and final list of the values that the class has determined that the study of literature provides.

## Short Essay Examples from the Readings

While you are responding to the short essay exam questions, you should periodically provide detailed examples from the readings to support your answers. When you do so, you should try to provide a page number in parentheses so that I can look at what you were referring to.

For citations to the Norton anthology, you can just provide a page number like this: (232). For a citation to *Dubliners*, include Joyce’s name too, like this: (Joyce 50).

**Preparation**

You should certainly have read all the readings assigned during the semester at least once.

While not necessary, you might want to prepare beforehand a list of examples from the readings that are related to the major concepts of the course. For example, you could find examples in our anthology relevant to a discussion of "Plot" that you could refer to during the short essay portion of the exam. If before the exam, you list page numbers and/or put sticky notes on relevant pages, you will be able to save yourself time searching during the exam. Then, when you are responding to the exam questions, you could find those examples and consider them in light of the questions presented.

**Format**

For the short answer vocabulary portion, you will be hand writing on a sheet of questions that I will provide you. For the short essay portion of the exam, you can either purchase a couple bluebooks from the student bookstore to write in during the exam, or you can use a computer to type your responses and then electronically submit them to me before you leave. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to obtain laptops for everyone, so if you do not have your own laptop to bring, plan on writing in a bluebook instead.

**Date**

- Thursday, Dec. 13, 8-10 a.m., in our normal classroom.

**Grading**

- This exam will comprise 25% of your overall grade for the entire course.
- Short answer questions on vocabulary (25% of the exam)
  - You will receive two points if you answer fully and correctly and one point if your answer is basically correct but is somehow incomplete or slightly inaccurate.
  - Your grade on this portion of the exam will be a simple percentage of the points you earned from the points possible.
- Short essay questions on the major course concepts and readings (75% of the exam)
  - Your grade will be based on how well your answers each meet the following criteria:
    - Addresses the question?
    - Organized?
    - Supported by textual evidence from the class readings?
    - Persuasive?
- Grammar, spelling, and handwriting will not factor into your grade except to the extent that they interfere with my ability to read and understand your answers.