

Final Exam Essay Questions

The following essay questions pertain to the readings and films we studied during the term. There is no one right or wrong answer, but more credit will be given to more complete, precise answers. In addition, you must provide evidence to back up your points by referring to specific details from the works. Each question is worth 25 points/ **Please note that an essay that provides in depth analysis is superior to an essay that covers several elements only superficially. Although you are not required to provide direct quotes from the texts, be sure to refer descriptively to works, events, characters, etc. in the texts and films analyzed to back up your points. Please also note that pages should be single-spaced.**

You may plan your essays in advance, but the essays themselves must be written *in class*. You may bring one page of notes, written on one side of the sheet only.

1. Write a polished essay in which you describe how **one** particular theme you've noticed functions across at least four works we've studied this term. [e.g., gender roles, economics, the family, marriage, politics, legal, performance] (Undergrads: 1 page minimum; Grads: 2 pages minimum)
2. Write a polished essay in which you consider the body of work of one of the authors we've read (e.g., Swift, Pope, Gay, Montague, Arbuthnot). In your essay, develop a theory about **one** aspect of that writer's work (e.g., his/her artistic vision, his/her use of a particular literary device or genre, his/her choice of subject matter, etc.) as you understand it from what we read in class. (Undergrads: 1 page minimum; Grads: 2 pages minimum) **Be aware of the dates of the works you choose.**
3. Write an essay in which you analyze **one** particular type of relationship between characters in the works we read. For instance, you might look at relationships among people of differing social classes, genders, nationalities, ethnicities, or races, or between different groups of people who interact, such as travelers and indigenous peoples, upper and lower classes, husbands and wives, parents and children, etc. Try to include examples from as many works as possible, but **choose only one area to discuss.** (Undergrads: 1 page minimum; Grads: 2 pages minimum)
4. Write an essay in which you give a definition of one of the genres we've studied this term and then defend that definition by drawing on the works we've read in the course (for example, satire, pastoral, novel, mock epic, picaresque novel, travel narrative). **Be sure that you demonstrate an awareness of how the genre you've chosen functioned as a form of cultural expression during the period we've been studying.** (Undergrads: 1 page minimum; Grads: 2 pages minimum)

Good luck!