Final Exam Preparation

Your final exam will take place on Tuesday, May 11 from 10:15 AM to 12:15 PM in our normal classroom. You will have to identify 5 out of 10 quotes for the exam (selected from the quotations submitted by you and redistributed in class by me). You will need to give the title of the piece, the author of the piece, and give two or three thoughtful sentences on the quote explaining its importance in the context of the course. In addition, you will need to prepare an essay exam prep card using the following specifications:

- The card may be no bigger than 5" x 8".
- Your name must appear in the upper right corner of the card (with a horizontal orientation so that the longest side is at top).
- A clear space at the top left corner should be left blank for stapling.
- You may record quotes on the card, but each quote on the card needs to appear in the essay. Listing other quotes in an attempt to have the answers to the ID section is unacceptable. Quotes are expected in the essay since you can prepare ahead of time.
- You may not write out the essay on the card, but you may outline the key points.
- Failure to follow these directions will result in the card not being allowed during the exam.
- I will inspect the card before the exam starts. You may wish to show up early to get my approval.

Essay Options for Final Exam

1. The early nineteenth-century period of American literature saw the rise of political and social discussion, satire, and disdain of government. Find at least three examples from different authors to illustrate their disenchantment with sociopolitical issues and use your knowledge of each author to explain their gripes.

2. As the first European to encounter the Americas, Christopher Columbus embodies the introduction of European peoples and cultures into the Western Hemisphere. This pivotal historical moment has since served as moral mirror for citizens of the United States, reflecting their feelings and concerns about the origins of their national identity. Using Columbus, Washington Irving, and Whitman as your primary sources, identify at least two attitudes about Columbus that reflect upon the character of the United States and offer an explanation of what cultural forces helped shape those attitudes.

3. Along with issues about race, freedom, and egalitarianism, gender issues offer a rich subtext for readings in the course. From overt calls for gender equality to spirited discussions of traditional and transgressive gender norms, the question of what it means to be male and female in America to different groups remained a constant struggle. Using at least three texts, analyze different attitudes about the genders and argue what these attitudes suggest about the cultural
values they represent. You may choose to talk about both genders or focus on either male or female roles.

4. While the American Revolution literally declared the United States an independent entity, the writers of the nineteenth century helped to articulate an American attitude about meritocracy, personal independence, self-reliance, and non-conformity in political, social, and even literary pursuits. Using at least three authors, argue what it means to be an individual in America and how that attitude evolved.

5. As the United States grew through Manifest Destiny policies, the scope and grandeur of the American landscape ignited the American imagination on the subject of nature. Using Emerson and at least one other writer, describe how images of nature have helped define the American character.

6. The early nineteenth century saw the rise of transcendentalism, particularly in the works of Emerson and Thoreau. What precisely does transcendentalism transcend? Give examples that illustrate how their writings are able to make universal judgments while remaining isolated from social, cultural, and political struggles.

Possible Quotes for Dr. Halbert's Spring 2010 American Lit I Final Exam

QUOTE: ‘Twas mercy brought me from my Pagan land
SOURCE: Phillis Wheatley, On Being Brought from Africa to America, Vol A. pg. 1306

QUOTE: Some view our sable race with scornful eye,
‘Their colour is a diabolic die.’
Remember, Christians, Negros, black as Cain,
May be refin’d, and join th’angelic train.
SOURCE: Phillis Wheatley On Being Brought from Africa to America Vol. A 1306

QUOTE: I was born in Tuckahoe, near Hillsborough, and about twelve miles from Easton, in Talbot county, Maryland. I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it. By far the larger part of the slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most master within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant.

QUOTE: They told a tale of woe which was then altogether beyond my feeble comprehension; they were tones loud, long, and deep; they breathed the prayer and complaint of souls boiling over with the bitterest anguish. Every tone was a testimony against slavery, and a prayer to God for deliverance from chains.
SOURCE: Frederick Douglass. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. (Pg. 2051)

QUOTE: From that moment, I understand the pathway from slavery to freedom.

QUOTE: Mistress, in teaching me the alphabet, had given me the inch, and no precaution could prevent me from taking the ell.
SOURCE: Frederick Douglas, Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglas, an American Slave, pg 2061

QUOTE: I had as well be killed running as die standing
SOURCE: Fredrick Douglass The Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, An American Slave Pg.2073

Quote: So would I if I might, besides corr [ectin]g the Faults, change some sinister Accidents and Events of it for others more favourable, but tho’ this were deny’d, I should still accept the Offer. However, since such a Repetition is not to be expected, the next Thing most like living one’s Life over again, seems to be a Recollection of that Life; and to make that Recollection as durable as possible, the putting it down in Writing.

QUOTE - By my rambling digressions I percieve my self to be grown old. I us’d to write more methodically. But one does not dress for private as for publick Ball, ‘Tis only perhaps Negligence.

SOURCE - Benjamin Franklin; The Autobiography. (Volume A, Page 832)

QUOTE: I was in my Working Dress, my best Cloaths being to come round by Sea. I was dirty from my journey; my pockets were stuff’d out with Shirts and Stockings; I knew no Soul, nor where to look for Lodging. I was fatigu’d with Traveling, Rowing and Want of Rest. I was very hungry, and my whole stock of Cash consisted of a Dutch Dollar and about a Shilling in Copper.
SOURCE: Benjamin Franklin. The Autobiography Vol A. Pg. 876

QUOTE: I long to hear that you have declared an independency- and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors.
“We have only the Name of Master, and rather than give up this, which would completely subject Us to the Despotism of the Peticoat, I hope General Washington, and all our brave Heroes would fight.”

SOURCE: John Adams. Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams. Vol A. Pg 1012

“...To define with precision the rules whereby aliens should become citizens, and citizens make themselves aliens.”

SOURCE: Thomas Jefferson, from Notes on the State of Virginia, pg 1035

“Although the savage of the new world is about the same height as man in our world, this does not suffice for him to constitute an exception to the general fact that all living nature has become smaller on that continent.


America has not yet produced one good poet

SOURCE: Thomas Jefferson from Notes on the State of Virginia pg 1026

“I allude to the disproportionate value set on the time and labor of men and of women. A man who is engaged in teaching, can always, I believe, command a higher price for tuition than a woman--even when he teaches the same branches, and is not in any respect superior to women.”


“...Let no one think, from these remarks, that I regard a knowledge of housewifery as beneath the acquisition of women. Far from it; I believe that a complete knowledge of household affairs is an indispensable requisite in a women’s education,—that by the mistress of a family, whether married or single, doing her duty thoroughly and understandingly, the happiness of the family is increased to an incalculable degree, as well as a vast amount of time and money saved. All I complain of is, that our education consists so almost exclusively in culinary and other manual operations.


This mode of training necessarily exalts, in their view, the animal above the intellectual and spiritual nature, and teaches women to regard themselves as a kind of machinery, necessary to keep the domestic engine in order, but of little value to the intelligent companions of men.


Hitherto, instead of being a help meet to man, in the highest, noblest sense of the term, as a companion, a co-worker, an equal; she has been a mere appendage of his being, an instrument of his convenience and pleasure, the pretty toy with which he wiled away his leisure
moments, or the pet animal whom he humored into playfulness and submission.


QUOTE: I recognize no rights but human rights- I know nothing of men’s rights and women’s rights; for in Christ Jesus, there is neither male nor female. It is my solemn conviction, that, until this principle of equality is recognized and embodied in practucem the church can do nothing effectual for the permanent reformation of the world


QUOTE: The minute she seeds her husband coming up the street, she makes for the door, as if she hadn’t another minute to live, stands in the entry with her teeth chattering in her head till he gets all his coats and mufflers, and overshoes, and what-do-you-call’-ems off, then chases round (like a cat in a fit) after the boot-jack; warms his slippers and puts ‘em on, and dislocates her wrist carving at the table for fear it will tire him. Poor little innocent fool!


QUOTE: Now the truth is just this, and I wish all the women on earth had but one ear in common, so that I could put this little bit of gospel into it:-Just so long as a man isn’t quite as sure as if he knew for certain, whether nothing on earth could ever disturb your affection for him, he is your humble servant, but the very second he finds out (or thinks he does) that he has possession of every inch of your heart, and no neutral territory-he will turn on his heel and march off whistling “Yankee Doodle!”


QUOTE: Washington was very well, if he couldn’t spell, and I’m glad we are all free; but as a woman- I shouldn’t know it, didn’t some orator tell me. Can I go out of an evening without a hat at my side? Can I go out with on my head without danger of a station-house? Can I clap my hands at some public speaker when I am nearly bursting with delight?... Can I be Senator, that I may hurry up that millennial International Copyright Law? Can I even be President? Bah- you know I can’t. “Free!” Humph!


QUOTE: “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.”


QUOTE: The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise. He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice.

QUOTE: Now, in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country; their social and religious degradation – in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States.
SOURCE: Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Declaration of Sentiments. Vol. B. Pg. 2115

QUOTE: In the following pages I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense.
SOURCE: Thomas Paine, Common Sense, Vol A. Pg. 992

QUOTE: The Almighty hath implanted in us these inextinguishable feelings for good and wise purposes
SOURCE: Thomas Paine Common Sense pg. 997

QUOTE: “These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”
SOURCE: Thomas Paine. The American Crisis. Vol A. Pg 998

QUOTE: It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye!
SOURCE: Edgar Allen Poe The Tell-Tale Heart Vol. B 2517

QUOTE: Now this is the point. You fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. But you should have seen me. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded- with what caution- with what foresight- with what dissimulation I went to work! I was never kinder to the old man then during the whole week before I killed him.

QUOTE: And now at the dead hour of the night, amid the dreadful silence of that old house, so strange a noise like this excited me to uncontrollable terror.

QUOTE: And this maiden she lived with no other though
   Than to love and be loved by me.”
SOURCE: Edgar Allan Poe "Annabel Lee" pg. 2570

QUOTE: Undoubtedly we have no questions to ask which are unanswerable.
SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nature, pg 1707
QUOTE: To go into solitude, a man needs to retire as much from his chamber as from society. I am not solitary whilst I read and write, though nobody is with me. But if a man would be alone let him look at the stars. The rays that come from those heavenly worlds, will separate between him and what he touches.

QUOTE: In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life,—no disgrace, no calamity, (leaving me my eyes,) which nature can not repair.
SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson. Nature. (Pg. 1709)

QUOTE: The sun illuminates only the eye of the man, but shines into the eye and the heart of the child.
SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson Nature pg 1709

QUOTE: To speak truly, few adult persons can see nature.
SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nature, Vol B pg. 1709

QUOTE: “I am the lover of uncontained and immortal beauty. In the wilderness, I find something more dear and connate than in streets or villages.”
SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson Nature Vol. B 1709

QUOTE: Yet it is certain that the power to produce this delight, does not reside in nature, but in man, or in a harmony of both.

QUOTE: “Even the corpse hath its own beauty.”

QUOTE: “Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members. Society is a joint-stock company in which the members agree for the better securing of his bread to each shareholder, to surrender the liberty and culture of the eater.”
SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson. Self-Reliance. Vol B. Pg 1748

QUOTE: “I tell thee, thou foolish philanthropist, that I grudge the dollar, the dime, the cent I give to such men as do not belong to me and to whom I do not belong.”
SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson Self-Reliance Vol. B pg. 1749

QUOTE: it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.
SOURCE: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Self Reliance, Vol B. pg. 1751
QUOTE: All men recognize the right of revolution.

QUOTE: “The character inherent in the American people has done all that has been accomplished; and it would have done somewhat more, if the government had not sometimes got in its way.”

QUOTE: I ask for, not at once no government, but at once a better government. Let every man make known what kind of government would command his respect, and that will be one step toward obtaining it.

QUOTE: When a sixth of the population of a nation which has undertaken to be the refuge of liberty are slaves, and a whole country is unjustly overrun and conquered by a foreign army, and subjected to military law, I think that it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize.

QUOTE: I find that the respectable man so called, has immediately drifted from his position and despairs his own country, when his country has more reason to despair him.
SOURCE: Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to the Civil Government" Pg: 1866 Vol. B

QUOTE: “It is there that the fugitive slave, and the Mexican prisoner on parole, and the Indian come to plead the wrongs of his race, should find them; on that separate, but more free and honorable ground, where the state places those who are not with her but against her,- the only house in a slave-state in which a free man can abide with honor.”

QUOTE: The first source of right, by which property is acquired in a country, is DISCOVERY. For as all mankind have an equal right to any thing, which has never before been appropriated, so any nation, that discovers an uninhabited country, and takes possession thereof, is considered as enjoying full property, and absolute, unquestionable empire therein.

QUOTE: The Indians improved daily and wonderfully by their intercourse with the whites. They took to drinking rum, and making bargains. They learned to cheat, to lie, to swear, to gamble, to quarrel, to cut each other’s throats, in short, to excel in all the accomplishments that had originally marked the superiority of their Christian visitors.

QUOTE: “Let us suppose, moreover that the aerial voyagers, finding this planet to be nothing but a howling wilderness, inhabited by us, poor savages and wild beasts, shall take the formal
They seize upon our fertile territories, scourge us from our rightful possession, relieve us from our wives, and when we are unreasonable enough to complain, they will turn upon us and say----miserable barbarians! Ungrateful wretches!----have we not come thousands of miles to improve your worthless planet---have we not fed you with moonshine---have we not intoxicated you with nitrous oxide------does not our moon give you light every night and have you the baseness to murmur, when we claim a pitiful return for all these benefits?


I’m half wild horse and half cock-eyed alligator and the rest o’ me is crooked snags an’ red-hot snappin’ turtle.

SOURCE: Mike Fink, "Mike Fink’s Brag", pg 2283

I always had the praise o’ raisin the tallest and fattest, and sassyest gals in all America.

SOURCE: The Crockett Almanacs, Vol B 2282

Thy mad-whistled laughter echoing, rumbling like an earthquake, rousing all.

SOURCE: Walt Whitman, "To a Locomotive In Winter" Pg: 3100 Vol. B

All over bouquets of roses,
O death, I cover you over with roses and early lilies,
But mostly and now the lilac that blooms the first,
Copious I break, I break the sprigs from the bushes,
With loaded arms I come, pouring from you,
For you and the coffins all of you O death.

SOURCE: Walt Whitman. *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom’d.* (Pg. 3089)