

EXAM 2

Matt Turner / Multicultural American Literature / Fall 2011

Grading Criteria

I will primarily grade your exam based on the quality of insight, the depth of analysis, clarity of writing, and reference to readings. A successful exam demonstrates critical analysis of the readings and the use of citations to support arguments. These exam answers should be more organized, more in-depth, and provide more citations than your critical evaluations. Your answers should be organized into paragraphs and you should write this as a formal essay. You should include introductions and conclusions, but I won't weigh them heavily in my evaluation. You should also proofread your exam to catch obvious mechanical errors.

Your completed exam is to be posted to Turnitin.com by Thursday 15 December at 9:30am. I will grade these within Turnitin.com. Any exam posted to Turnitin.com after the start of class on that date will be considered late. You do not have to bring a print version.

Exam Questions

You will write an answer to each item. Each answer for each question should be around anywhere from 250-500 words, which is approximately 1 to 2 pages typed. Cite pages for all quotes you use. Your exam should be double spaced, Times New Roman, 1" margins. Include the standard MLA heading on the first page. No Works Cited page is required.

African-American readings

Each of these short stories—Morrison's "Recitatif", Bambara's "The Lesson", and Birta's "Johnnieruth"—depict African-American girls struggling to learn where they fit in the larger society. Using quotes from all three stories, compare and contrast these stories. Provide an argument for the role either race or gender plays in the maturation of Twyla or Roberta, Sylvia, and Johnnieruth.

"The Day of the Swallows"

Gender, and the relationship between men and women, play a significant role in Portillo's play. Based on Josefa's words and actions throughout the play, provide an argument for what this play is saying about gender relationships. In your analysis, include an argument in answer to this question: is the play critiquing Josefa's beliefs about men, or is it arguing that she had insight into these relationships?

Mexican-American readings

Dokey's "Sanchez" and Munoz's "Little Sister Born in This Land" explore the connection between the land and home; Baca's "Mexican's Are Taking Jobs From Americans" and Soto's "Like Mexicans" deal with the connection between ethnicity, culture, and economics. Select one of these pairs of readings and provide an argument for what each pair is saying about either land/home, or ethnicity/economics.

Citation Format

You should include direct quotations from the readings to support your answers, but because you have limited time, I don't expect you to provide complete quotes. You can use the following modified format. Include the first word, followed by ellipses, then the final word of the citation, all within quotations marks and the page number in parenthesis. An example:

Rowlandson writes that she "cannot . . . me" (247) to assert her belief to her readers of how her faith gives her strength.