

EXAMINATION

Course code: SFE21417	Course: The Gothic, American Style (MEN)
Date: 6 December 2018	Duration: 5 hours
Permitted sources: English-English Dictionary	Lecturer: Dr. Johanna Wagner
The examination: <p>The examination papers consist of 5 pages inclusive of this page. Please check that the examination papers are complete before you start answering the questions.</p>	
Date of announcement of the examination results: <p>The examination results are available on the Studentweb no later than two workdays after the announcement of the examination results www.hiof.no/studentweb</p>	



SECTION 1: (30%)

I. Matching (8 pts)

Match the left terms with the *most closely correlated* term/subject/definition/title on the right. Only one correct answer per question, and no terms can be re-used.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Sublime <u>D</u> | A. Heimlich/Unheimlich |
| 2. Psychological ghost story <u>F</u> | B. "A Good Man is Hard to Find" |
| 3. Uncanny <u>A</u> | C. "The Lottery" |
| 4. Native Americans _____ | D. Terror and beauty |
| 5. Redemption, Grace <u>B</u> | E. "August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains" |
| 6. Magical Realism <u>G</u> | F. "The Turn of the Screw" |
| 7. Tradition <u>C</u> | G. <i>Paradise</i> |
| 8. Post apocalyptic <u>E</u> | H. "Dear John Wayne" |

II. Fill in the Blank (3 pts)

Each excerpt is from material you've read throughout the semester. Identify the text (full title) and the author (full name).

- "They shoot the White girl first." (1 pt)
Text: Paradise
Author: Toni Morrison
- "Dying
Is an art, like everything else.
I do it exceptionally well." (2 pts)

Text: "Lady Lazarus"
Author: Sylvia Plath

III. True/False (4 pts)

- Addie Bundren is the center of consciousness in *As I Lay Dying* T X F _____
- Roderick is the protagonist in "The Fall of the House of Usher" T _____ F X _____
- Constance poisons her entire family T _____ F X _____
- In "The Quadroons" a young woman is enslaved because of the one-drop rule T X F _____

IV. Multiple Choice (3 pts)

Choose the best word(s) that correctly complete(s) the phrase relevant to this course.

1. In *Quicksand*, Helga Crane is the **D**
 - a. Center of Consciousness
 - b. Protagonist
 - c. Antagonist
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

2. The beginnings of the American Gothic was primarily influenced by **D**
 - a. The Victorians
 - b. The Realists
 - c. The Modernists
 - d. The Romantics

3. “Anything can happen in the **C**; may I kiss you.”
 - a. sand
 - b. city
 - c. woods
 - d. crowd

V. Short Answer (12 pts)

Answer all questions **fully, but briefly**. These are *not* essay questions; therefore a few sentences should be sufficient for each question.

1. “The Fall of the House of Usher” and “The Turn of the Screw” handle two different transgressions of a sexual nature. Name each transgression, its corresponding text, and the characters involved.

“The Fall of the House of Usher:” Incest (Roderick and Madeline)

“The Turn of the Screw:” Pedophilia (Quint and Jessel, the previous governess and estate hand)

2. In “Pawn shop” by Sherman Alexie, the speaker finds what pieces of personal property underneath the glass display case? (Be specific about the peoples’ cultural group.)

The beating hearts of Native Americans.

4. Briefly explain the idea of the sublime connected to the gothic (definition from the class, not the dictionary).

The student must state something that encapsulates the juxtaposition of the two emotions that make up the sublime, and how these two emotions can be pleasurable.

5. Briefly explain why the end of “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson is so shocking, especially juxtaposed against its beginning.

The student must generally contrast the two very different parts of the text. One mundane and one shocking.

6. The protagonist in H.P. Lovecraft’s “The Rats in the Walls” begins speaking various languages at the end of the story. What is the significance of these languages? What does it

symbolize is happening to the protagonist?

The student should recognize the languages go back in time chronologically until a pre-verbal stage. Should touch on degeneration.

7. Why is the image of a Native American audience cheering at a film in Louise Erdrich's "Dear John Wayne" so uncannily disturbing to the reader? Define uncanny and then briefly explain.

The student should touch on any of the following: uncertainty (reality, identity) crisis (of the proper or natural; the world or the self); strangeness, familiar and unfamiliar, heimlich and unheimlich (repetition, homesickness, doubling).

SECTION 2 (Literature Essay): (70%)

Write an essay on **ONE** of the topics below. The essay does not need to be a certain length, but must develop your points sufficiently to make your argument. **REMEMBER:** The material you use should come from the course. Define your terms; a strong thesis should guide your work; the parts of an essay are important; and examples always help.

1. Gothic literature often blurs our understanding of good and evil, protagonist and antagonist. Discuss how the governess in "The Turn of the Screw" tries very hard to be a good moral influence, but may have very well failed in this capacity, and could have been the means for exactly the opposite. Be as specific as you can in your examples from the story. If you can't remember names, explain the characters so the reader understands about who it is you are talking. Define any specific terms you use.
2. Gothic texts transgress taboos, often questioning easy narratives about life and the world in which we live. Using your understanding of the special kind of fairytale *Into the Woods* is, discuss the witches role in the fairytale and compare her to the other characters' roles. What is interesting about her character placed up against the human characters? What is the significance of her leaving the group? Be as specific as you can in your examples from the story to support your points. If you can't remember names, explain the characters so the reader understands who you are talking about. Define any specific terms you use.
3. Utopian places often end up being dystopian places in gothic literature. Explore how the utopian space in "August 2026" OR *Paradise* became their exact opposites. What did the creators want for these utopias? What were they intended to do? What happened to make them into the dystopias they came to be? Remember both texts have important historical contexts that are significant: "August 2026" was published in 1950, and the story of *Paradise* begins in 1890. Be as specific as you can in your examples from the story to support your points. If you can't remember names, explain the characters so the reader understands who you are talking about. Remember to define your terms.

An excellent essay will do the following:

Structure:

- Have an introduction with a strong thesis statement
- Have body paragraphs (indented or spaced to indicate) that relate to the thesis statement, in which the student develops her/his points with evidence from the text provided or the text they must remember (the more specific the examples, the better). And, each point should flow logically from the next.
- Have a conclusion in which the student returns to the thesis statement, and summarizes the findings of the body paragraphs.

Content (with specific examples and development, names are helpful)

- The content should come from the course.
- The subject and argument must be relevant to the question.
- The subject must answer the questions asked.
- If terminology is used, these terms should be defined.
- If historical context is important to the answer, the student should explain it.
- Each point must be developed sufficiently with analysis and examples from the text; if a text is used, it must be cited. If no text is used, it should be as specific as possible.
- Each point should be balanced (of roughly similar length and development).

Language:

- Language should be generally formal and academic
- Syntax, grammar, spelling, capitalization, should be correct
- Transitional words and phrases are used to create allow ideas and sentences to flow