

# EXAMINATION

<b>Course code: SFE 11318</b>	<b>Course: Cultural Studies 2</b>
<b>Date: 12.05.2020</b>	<b>Duration:</b> 6 hours
<b>Permitted aids:</b> Open book exam	<b>Lecturer:</b> Øystein Tjentland

# Task 1-5 (100%)

I have provided notes for the answers (indicative, not exhaustive), however, student responses should be in sentences and show they understand what they are writing. The final grade reflects the quality of the answer (regarding language fluency and understanding) as well as structure.

## 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.
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- 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
  - Each point should be balanced (of roughly similar length and development).

## Language:

- Language should be generally formal and academic
- Syntax, grammar, spelling and capitalization should be correct

## **1: Discuss the relationship between man and society as presented in EITHER Benjamin Franklin's autobiography OR Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Self-Reliance."**

Benjamin Franklin - elements that they might include in their essays are: secular writer, focus on this life, free will (maybe use examples of religious writers that we have studied such as Jonathan Edwards and /puritan impact to contrast Franklin). Man can improve, man-centred universe. Religion should encourage people to do good in a liberal society. They should quote and discuss elements from Franklin's Autobiography, e.g. 13 virtues. Strong essays should include critique of Franklin's arguably vulgar, opportunistic, self-satisfied and deeply American writing.

Emerson – elements that they might include: Transcendentalism. American Renaissance. Self-reliance. Spiritual position. Oversoul. Man and God unified. The inherent divinity of Man. Undogmatic approach. Anti-establishment. Anti-conformity.

**2: Discuss how the central symbol in “The Yellow Wallpaper” functions in relation to the plot and theme(s) of the story. You must also draw upon other relevant texts that you have studied this semester.**

Students should make use of relevant examples from the text to showcase understanding and explain effect. Elements: Realism, feminist fiction, hysteria/ women’s nervous disorder, rest cure etc

It is likely that many students will compare Perkins to Edith Wharton’s *The Other Two*. Hopefully some of them will pinpoint differences between them and maybe discuss whether it affects style (Wharton’s background from NY upper class, old money, comfortable life as an expat in France etc vs Perkins ‘on the margins of society.’)

**3: Compare and contrast Whitman’s “One’s Self I Sing” and Ginsberg’s “A Supermarket in California,” taking into account thematic aspects, historical context and formal features. You can also draw upon other relevant works that you have studied this semester. (e.g. Whitman’s “I hear America Singing.”)**

Whitman: the Age of the Common Man/The Age of Reform/Am. Renaissance. (context)  
Whitman as the ‘native American poet’, the American Adam emerging in the new world.

Students should point out and discuss the direct links between the two texts (Ginsberg’s references to Whitman in Supermarket in California.) (What’s become of the America that Whitman envisioned? etc )

Ginsberg – American counterculture, post-war context, beat poet, world poet vs American poet. From cooked to raw verse. Free spirits in free verse.

**4: “I, in my own mind, have thought of America as a place in the divine scheme of things that was set aside as a promised land.” (Ronald Reagan)**

**Put the quote into context and discuss the statement in light of “American exceptionalism.” In your text you must draw upon aspects of American history and American literature that you have studied this semester.**

Students should explain the concept of American exceptionalism with reference to history on a general level (manifest destiny/westward expansion/City Upon a Hill) and (indeed strong essays) should include a discussion of the opposing elements of isolationism and internationalism. Hopefully, they will throw in a couple of doctrines as well (Monroe doctrine and Truman doctrine.) Essays should also comprise 'a literary component' and critique American exceptionalism, e.g. from a cold war perspective.

**5: Please see the texts (below) by Robert Frost and Sylvia Plath. Use the knowledge you have of the two authors to compare the two visions, place the texts in the American literary tradition and comment on how they use literary features to express themes.**

Place texts in American literary tradition. I think strong essays should be able to make the (American) context an integral part of the discussion. Point out metaphors, rhyme pattern and explore purpose and effect. Maybe some will focus on personal tragedies in Frost's and Plath's lives, which I think is fine, but not an element that necessarily needs to be included.