

國立清華大學 命題紙

96 學年度 外國語文學 系(所) 甲 組碩士班入學考試

科目 美國文學史 科目代碼 4002 共 3 頁第 1 頁 *請在【答案卷卡】內作答

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS TEST FOR AMERICAN LITERATURE

PART I: Identifications (20%)

Please identify **the author** of the following quotations from the pool of names below:

Henry Longfellow, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Maxine Hong Kingston, Henry David Thoreau, Ezra Pound, W. E. B. Du Bois, Frederic Douglas, John Crevecoeur, T. S. Eliot, Walt Whitman.

1. "I celebrate myself, and sing myself, / And what I assume you shall assume, / For every atom belong to me as good belongs to you / I loafe and invite my soul, / I lean and loafe at my ease observing a spear of summer grass."
2. "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life..."
3. "Fellow-citizens, pardon me, allow me to ask, why am I called upon to speak here to-day? What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and of natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence, extended to us? And am I, therefore, called upon to bring our humble offering to the national altar, and to confess the benefits and express devout gratitude for the blessings resulting from your independence to us?...This Fourth July is *yours*, not *mine*. *You* may rejoice, *I* must mourn."
4. "In this distribution of functions, the scholar is the delegated intellect. In the right state, he is, *Man Thinking*. In the degenerate state, when the victim of society, he tends to become a mere thinker, or, still worse, the parrot of other men's thinking."
5. "The apparition of these faces in the crowd; / Petals on a wet, black bough."
6. "April is the cruellest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing / Memory and desire, stirring / Dull roots with spring rain. / Winter kept us warm, covering / Earth in forgetful snow, feeding / A little life with dried tubers."

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7. "After the Egyptian and Indian, the Greek and Roman, the Teuton and Mongolian, the Negro is a sort of seventh son, born with a veil, and gifted with second-sight in this American world—a world which yields him no true self-consciousness, but only lets him see himself through the revelation of the other world. It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity."
8. "*He* is an American, who, leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds. He becomes an American by being received in the broad lap of our great *Alma Mater*. Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men, whose labors and posterity will one day cause great changes in the world."
9. "Tell me not, in mournful numbers, / Life is but an empty dream! / For the soul is dead that slumbers, / And Things are not what they seem. / Life is real—life is earnest— / And the grave is not its goal: / Dust thou art, to dust returnest, / Was not spoken of the soul."
10. "My aunt haunts me—her ghost drawn to me because now, after fifty years of neglect, I alone devote pages of paper to her, though not origami-ed into houses and clothes. I do not think she always means me well. I am telling on her, and she was a spite suicide, drowning herself in the drinking water. The Chinese are always very frightened of the drowned one, whose weeping ghost, wet hair hanging and skin bloated, waits silently by the water to pull down a substitute."

PART II: Essay Questions (65%)

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Please also notice that you **CANNOT** use the same text for both questions.

1. Imagine that you are asked to give a presentation on American literature in a high school classroom. You have 60 minutes to explain to the students what American literature is and how it is related to our life in Taiwan. You need to give a general introduction to explain what American literature is and why it is important to study it, and provide **at least THREE** examples to back up your argument. In other words, you need to explain to the students what American literature is all about and in what ways it is relevant to our society. (35%)

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2. A public intellectual in the 1920s America, Randolph Bourne argues—in his essay “Trans-National America,” originally published in *Atlantic Monthly* in July 1916—that America is coming to be, not a nationality but a trans-nationality, a weaving back and forth, with the other lands, of many threads of all sizes and colors. Any movement which attempts to thwart this weaving, or to dye the fabric any one color, or disentangle the threads of the strands, is false to this cosmopolitan vision.” What do you think about this comment? Do you agree with or disagree with Bourne’s observation in the 1920s? Please comment on the idea of “trans-nationality” as a theme in American literature by using **at least TWO** literary examples. That is, in what texts can we see the representations of “trans-nationality” and how is that characteristic of America as a nation, culture, and empire? (30%)

PART III: Statement of Purpose (15%)

Please identify a **theme, subject, and/or problematic** in American literature that you would like to explore and research on, if you were admitted into our graduate program. Please explain why you are interested in this particular topic and how you plan to study it. Feel free to draw on any other literary and cultural knowledge you have and try to articulate a feasible project as clearly and cogently as possible. You can imagine your answer as a statement of purpose that outlines a future critical project on American literary and cultural studies.