

TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM

[worth 20% overall]

Due Date:

- **Monday, Oct 26th at 9am:** Send your essay as an attachment via e-mail to jcmeloni@gmail.com or julie_meloni@wsu.edu . The penalty for assignments submitted between 9am on Monday, Oct 26th and 9am on Monday, Nov 2nd is 15% of the assignment grade.

Instructions:

In a new document, answer the questions below. Label the sections "Part 1," "Part 2," "Part 3," and "Part 4," and use numbers within each section. In Part 3, the number should match the number of the question you chose to answer. Additionally, be sure to read and follow the specific instructions for each part.

Part 1 (Definitions):

The following are our pervasive key terms. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, give a one-sentence definition of each term. Then, in 2-3 additional sentences, give an example of that term as it is applied to one of the four texts or authors we have studied in the Africa and Caribbean units. You cannot repeat texts/authors. **Worth 5 points each.**

1. colonialism
2. postcolonialism
3. Orientalism
4. the other

Part 2 (Passage Identification):

For each of the following passages, identify the book, the author, the speaker(s), the context of the passage (e.g. where it is situated in the narrative), and the importance of the quote to the overall narrative. Your answers should be in paragraph form. **Worth 10 points each.**

1. "At last I was in the hall where a lamp was burning. I remember that when I came. A lamp and the dark staircase and the veil over my face. They think I don't remember but I do. There was a door to the right. I opened it and went in. It was a large room with a red carpet and red curtains. Everything else was white. I sat down on a couch to look at it and it seemed sad and cold and empty to me, like a church without an altar. I wished to see it clearly so I lit all the candles, and there were many. I lit them carefully from the one I was carrying but I couldn't reach up to the chandelier. I looked round for the altar for with so many candles and so much red, the room reminded me of a church. Then I heard a clock ticking and it was made of gold. Gold is the idol they worship."
2. "It has happened in twenty places, twenty countries, islands, colonies, territories—these words with which we play, thinking they are interchangeable. And that the use of a particular one alters the truth. I cannot see our predicament as unique. The newspapers even today spell out situations which, changing faces and landscapes, I can think myself into. They talk of the pace of postwar political change. It is not the pace of creation. Nor is it the pace of destruction, as some think. Both these things require time. The pace of events, as I see it, is not more than the pace of a chaos on which strict limits have been imposed."
3. "Dark human shapes could be made out in the distance, flitting indistinctly against the gloomy border of the forest, and near the river two bronze figures leaning on tall spears stood in the sunlight under fantastic head-dresses of spotted skins, warlike and still in statuesque repose. And from right to left along the lighted shore moved a wild and gorgeous apparition of a woman."
4. "The next morning the crazy men actually began to clear a part of the forest and to build their house. The inhabitants of Mbanta expected them all to be dead within four days. The first day passed and the second and the third and fourth, and none of them died. Everyone was puzzled. And then it became known that the white

man's fetish had unbelievable power. It was said that he wore glasses on his eyes so that he could see and talk to evil spirits. Not long after, he won his first three converts."

Part 3 (Essay Question):

Answer ONE of the following questions in an essay of approximately 750 words. Parenthetical citations and a works cited list should be included. **Worth 35 points.**

1. The natural world plays a significant role in the development of the characters—and in fact the societies—presented in all of the books we've read so far. Using two of the four primary texts, compare and contrast the descriptions and functions of the natural environment with regards to the narratives.
2. Religion has found its way into each of the texts we've read so far. Using two of the four primary texts, compare and contrast the different types of religious belief and their importance to characters and societies, as well as the conflicts that that arise because of religious beliefs.
3. Each of the four texts has some element of madness associated with one or more characters. Using two of the four primary texts, compare and contrast the characterizations of madness as seen in various characters, and discuss the importance of madness as a theme within the texts.

Part 4 (Thinking Ahead):

Knowing that the final essay/project in this course will involve "a topic of your choosing that has to do in some way with 20th and/or 21st century global literature," and also knowing that we have yet to read texts from Southeast Asia, Ireland, and cyberspace-and-beyond, brainstorm about what you might be thinking about for your final project. **Worth 5 points.**