

# American Literature Midterm Study Guide

## Format

The test consists of

- 15 selected response (multiple choice) questions based on the vocabulary we have studied this semester; 12 of the words will be given in the context of reading passages, 3 will require selecting the correct word to complete a sentence.
- 10 selected response questions to identify errors in the conventions of standard English (i.e. grammar, punctuation, word usage, etc.)
- 25 selected response questions about literature, including characteristics of various literary periods, literary terms, rhetorical appeals, text structure, diction, and reading comprehension
- one constructed response question worth 10 points (17% of the total); the constructed response will be based on one of the reading passages on the test.

## Constructed Response Outline (RACE)

- I. Restate part of the prompt and Answer the question directly.
  - A. Cite Text Evidence #1 (internal citation).
  - B. Explain HOW the evidence supports your text evidence.
  - C. Cite Text Evidence #2 (internal citation).
  - D. Explain HOW the evidence supports your text evidence.

## Assessment Rubric for Constructed Response

<b>2 (10 pts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clearly answers prompt; answer/claim is well-focused</li><li>• Includes at least two <b>specific examples/details</b> with citations</li><li>• Evidence and explanations thoroughly support answer with clearly relevant information</li></ul>
<b>1.5 (8 pts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Answers the prompt</li><li>• Includes at least two related examples with citations</li><li>• Explanations support answer with somewhat limited development</li></ul>
<b>1 (6 pts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Answers prompt</li><li>• Includes limited or uncited examples/details, or examples are not clearly relevant</li><li>• Evidence and explanations are related to answer but are limited in scope</li></ul>
<b>.5 (4 pts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Answer is only loosely on topic</li><li>• Includes limited or uncited examples/details, or examples are not clearly relevant</li><li>• No explanations or summarizes textual evidence/no analysis present</li></ul>
<b>0 (2 pts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No response or incorrectly answers the prompt</li><li>• Gives no evidence or does not explain evidence</li></ul>

## ***Native American Literature***

### Archetypes

- Patterns found across cultures and time periods
- Character types, settings, themes
- Common Native American archetypes include trickster, earth mother, cultural hero, faithful companion, spirits (including animal spirits)

### Characteristics of Native American literature

- Oral tradition
- Origin/creation myths
- Repetition
- Ritual beginnings and endings
- Common motifs: sky world, earth diver, theft of fire or water, emergence from under the earth to the surface, number four, rite of passage (coming of age), importance of Nature, shared ownership

## ***Puritan Literature***

### Puritanism

- Sought to purify the church; preferred simplicity as opposed to showiness and extravagance
- Beliefs: basic sinfulness of humankind, predestination, providence, grace, Biblical authority, judgmental God
- Practices: self-discipline, self-examination, theocracy, thrift, industry, hard work
- Viewed their immigration to the New World as a divine mission; opposed other religious beliefs despite their own persecution in England

### Characteristics of Puritan literature

- Plain style
- Biblical allusions
- Reflection of God-centered lifestyle and Puritan practices
- Demonstration of Puritan beliefs
- Historical narrative, journals, sermons, biographies, hymns

## ***Rationalism/American Enlightenment***

### Characteristics of Rationalist literature

- Focus on logic and reason more than faith and religion
- Search for scientific and spiritual truth
- Importance of free inquiry, freedom of speech, experimentation
- Human perfectibility
- Scientific support for theology
- Influence of deism
- Persuasive essays, pamphlets, brochures, speeches, songs, poems

- Politics, philosophy, ethics and science

## Rhetorical Appeals

- Ethos: the source's credibility, the speaker's/author's authority
- Logos: the logic used to support a claim (induction and deduction); can also be the facts and statistics used to help support the argument
- Pathos: the emotional or motivational appeals; vivid language, emotional language and numerous sensory details

## Terms

- allusion
- analogy
- aphorism
- argument
- connotation
- counterargument
- diction
- figurative language
- imagery
- metaphor
- mood
- rhetorical question
- personification
- simile
- theme
- thesis
- tone

## Texts

- "The Earth on Turtle's Back," traditional Onondaga tale
- "Of Plymouth Plantation" by William Bradford
- "Speech to the Virginia Convention" by Patrick Henry
- "Achieving Moral Perfection" by Benjamin Franklin
- *The Crisis, No. 1* by Thomas Paine

## Vocabulary

- Sadlier-Oxford terms for units 1-5

## Analysis of Literature

- purpose
- audience
- structure (syntax)
- diction/connotation
- tone
- main idea/theme