

English 316K (35515-35570)
Comparative Literature 315 (33800-33855)
Tu Th 12:30-2, BUR 106

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Masterworks of Literature: World
Second Midterm: Fall 2007

NAME: _____

TA's NAME: _____

This examination should take about sixty minutes, but you will have the 75 minutes. Please note that it is scored out of 100 points. Please write in ink.

**FOR ALL SECTIONS, ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO
ACHIEVE MORE THAN A PASSING GRADE.**

- I. You will view a series of six images, once quickly and once more slowly. Each image has a number. Please refer to the image by number. Please select FOUR (4) of the images and identify the subject of the image and a text to which it relates. Please comment briefly on three (3) interesting features of the images, explaining clearly why they are interesting. Please be brief, but precise. Please do not repeat yourself or rely only on plot summary. (5 points each)**
- II. Below are SIX (6) quotations. Identify FOUR (4) of the following quotations by giving the title of the text, the author, the context in which the quotation occurs (who says it, who/what is it about, etc.), and a brief comment on the importance of the passage to the work as a whole. (10 points each)**
1. "Be quiet, poodle! Stop running around!
Why do you snuffle at the sill like that
Lie down behind the stove – not on the ground:
Take my best cushion for a mat."
 2. "So it survives for a time, a memento of events that took place 1,000 years ago."
 3. "And his words' flow –
Enchanting bliss –
The touch of his hand
And, oh, his kiss."
 4. "...what would you undertake,
To show yourself your father's son indeed
More than in words?"
 5. "When I asked him what profit he gained from his superior position among his people (for he was a captain, and our sailors called him king), he told me that it was to march foremost in war."
 6. "I shall the effect of this good lesson keep,
As watchman to my heart. But, good my brother,

Do not, as some ungracious pastors do,
Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven,
Whilst, like a puffed and reckless libertine,
Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads
And recks not his own rede.”

III. Write a brief essay in answer to TWO of the following questions. Please write in complete sentences and make specific references to the texts as you present your argument. (20 points each).

- I. Both Hamlet and Bashô live in worlds that are filled with violence. For each man society seems to offer conflicting views of how to live the life of an admirable man. Using details from the texts, especially what each man says about himself and his actions, give an account of what each character's options are and comment on how Hamlet and Bashô choose to live their lives. Do they conform to society's expectations or do they choose a different path? Please also discuss whether their decisions and actions improve/harm the lives of those around them given the difficult worlds in which they each live?
2. Montaigne asks us to travel in our minds to worlds that are unfamiliar to us. Bashô embarks upon a real journey to places he has always wanted to visit. There are two sorts of journeys here. Please offer an account of the type of journey and of what each man learns as he “travels.” What is important about the insights he acquires and why does he need to share these insights with us? In short, why should we care about these two very private and personal experiences?
3. Both Gretchen and Ophelia are loved and left by men whom they admire and love. The endings of their stories, however, while alike in some ways, are also very different. Please offer a brief account of the nature of their love affairs and then consider what, although they share some experiences, is different about their last moments. Please conclude by sharing your comments on the importance of these tragic women to their respective texts as a whole. Why do you think that Shakespeare and Goethe invented and included them?