

ENGL 201: World Literature
Exam 3 Essay Topics

Please prepare to answer **one** of the following questions in an essay to be written in class during the final exam period. Please note that this preparation is mental—you will not be allowed to bring notes, an outline, or a draft of your essay to class. **Please bring a blue book to the exam. Please do not write in your blue book before class, and do not put your name on it.**

Instructions: Write a five-paragraph essay responding to **one** of the three topics below. Your essay should be focused, unified, and thorough, and each paragraph should contain at least two specific examples or details that serve as the basis for your analysis. You will not be expected to produce verbatim quotations, but the situations, characters, speeches, or dialogues you use as examples should be discussed with as much attention to detail as possible. It is not enough simply to provide examples—you must also analyze those examples by explaining their meaning, significance, or relation to other examples or to other aspects of the literary work. Please make sure you begin each body paragraph with a strong topic sentence. (“Another example of nature imagery in the *Iliad* is . . .” is *not* a strong topic sentence.) Your essay should contain an introduction and conclusion. (50% of total exam.)

Works we have read/seen this semester: Homer’s *Iliad*, Vergil’s *Aeneid*, *The Bhagavad Gita*, the sermon on the mount, Augustine’s *Confessions*, Dante’s *Inferno*, Li Po, Petrarch’s letters and the *Canzoniere*, *Lazarillo de Tormes*, Voltaire’s *Candide*, and *The Bicycle Thief*.

1. Love has been a prominent theme in many of the works we have read this semester, but these works also show how love takes many different forms (erotic, romantic, divine, familial, patriotic, compassionate, unrequited, etc.), and can be treated both seriously and satirically. Choose specific episodes from three of the works we have read and write a one-paragraph analysis of each that compares and contrasts the different ways in which our readings have handled the theme of love. Make sure you explain how each author’s depiction of love relates to the larger themes of the work in question.
2. Discuss the theme of suffering in at least three of the works we have read this semester. What is similar and different about how these works handle the idea of suffering? What kinds of images and situations do these works use to represent suffering, and what is the significance of these images and situations?