

## EN-160 Essay Examination

**Due Date: Monday, October 25, 2021, by 2:00 p.m. (14:00) (Inspira turn-in)**

For this mid-term assignment, you will write an essay between 1,000 and 1,250 words in length on one of the essay topics below. Please indicate the word count at the end of your document. (The word count does not include bibliographic entries.) Give your essay a title, *but do not use your name*. Since you are submitting on Inspira, you will remain anonymous. Your work will be identified by student number.

Please use page numbers in your document. Use standard document formatting.

This essay will count for 40% of your final grade, and it cannot be revised. If you fail, you will still be eligible to sit for the final examination, but you will not pass the class. In order to pass the class, you will have to pass the midterm essay assignment later, during the makeup examination period next semester.

You must submit your essay by the announced deadline. There will be no exceptions made for late submissions. The Examination Office administers Inspira.

### Essay Guidelines:

Your essay must address a specific essay topic. (See list below.) Indicate which topic you have selected. Give your essay a title. Make sure that your essay has a clear argument. Stick to your essay topic, and *make sure you analyse, paraphrase, and quote from your selected text or texts in order to support your argument*. In other words, you will be doing close reading in your essay; and since it is an essay you will do more than that too. You will provide a context for your analysis. The context might be historical, or biographical, or thematic; or it might refer to literary genre, or literary history. *This may all sound very difficult. But what your essay is about will largely be determined by the essay prompt you select. So that is a big help!*

You must write in clear, grammatical sentences that make up coherent and cohesive paragraphs. A paragraph should have a controlling idea, or a topic sentence. Just as sentences need to follow logically from one to the next, so do paragraphs. Your essay must have an introduction and a conclusion.

You *do not* need to incorporate secondary, or critical, sources into your essay, though you can if you wish. You might find it useful to turn to the head notes and liner notes in the *Norton* anthologies, or to the pages of *English Literature in Context*, or *American History: A Short Introduction*. If you do use any of these critical sources (or others) by quoting from them and/or paraphrasing the author's language, make sure you use proper citation in the body of your essay. Provide a bibliography, or works cited list. Use MLA citation, or some other form of documentation if you are comfortable with it.

Work hard and write well. Explore. Be creative and thoughtful. **Do not plagiarize!**

**Select one of the following essay prompts:**

1. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a comedy: it begins with disruption of the social order, and it ends with restoration of the social order. Yet this does not mean that the play is necessarily sympathetic with rulers, or equally sympathetic or unsympathetic with all of them. In this essay, stake out a position on how you think the rulers come out in the play. Why is this important?
2. The introduction to Benjamin Franklin's life and work in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature Volume 1* claims that "[the writings of Franklin] helped inaugurate the new national sensibility that emerged after the American Revolution". Write an essay about Franklin in which you examine what is "new" in Franklin's writing.
3. Geoffrey Chaucer, the "father of English Literature," was a satirist. Write an essay that examines Chaucer's satire as it is practiced upon any two of his pilgrims. What is the aim of the satire?
4. William Blake famously said that John Milton "was of the devil's party without knowing it." What do you think he meant by this? Argue for or against this claim, based upon your close reading and interpretation of selected lines from Book One of *Paradise Lost*.
5. Examine how Alexander Hamilton in *Federalist* no. 1 and James Madison in *Federalist* no. 10 make the case that effective government is needed to secure individual liberty.
6. Select *either two or three poems* from our Week 40 reading schedule and discuss what you think makes them *Romantic* poems. Pay attention to textual details.
7. Mary Wollstonecraft proclaims in *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* that "the soft phrases, susceptibility of heart, delicacy of sentiment, and refinement of taste, are almost synonymous with epithets of weakness." What do you think she means?