

Cultures and Traditions 201 – Fall 2006

Format for the Final Examination

The final examination in C&T 201 will be given on *Wednesday, December 13* at *9:00 A.M.* in your discussion group's regular meeting room. You will be given a copy of the *course syllabus* to aid your memory and blue books in which to write your exam. This exam will consist of three parts.

PART I – Paired Identifications *within* a Module

(5 questions @ 6 points each = 30 points)

In Part I, you will be given a list of **8** pairs of items—names, terms, concepts, quotations, images, etc. – with each pair coming from one of our modules this semester. You will be asked to select **5** of the pairs, *identify* each item in the pair in a *sentence* (i.e. identify each person in the pair, describe the concepts, identify the source of the quotation, etc.) and *discuss* a *significant* or *interesting* relationship between them in a *paragraph* (approximately one blue book page). The relationship can either be either a *similarity* or a *difference*. Your answer will be graded using two criteria: (1) how accurately you identify the two items in the pair and (2) how intelligently you propose and discuss a significant or interesting relationship between them. There are often several potentially interesting relationships between the pair; we are not looking for one particular answer. It is up to you to provide sufficient justification of the relationship you have chosen.

PART II – Paired Identifications *across* two Modules

(5 questions @ 6 points each = 30 points)

In Part II, you will be given a list of **9** pairs of items—names, terms, concepts, quotations, images, etc. – with each member of the pair coming from a *different* module. You will be asked to select **5** of the pairs, *identify* each item in the pair and state a *significant* or *interesting* relationship (a similarity *or* difference) between them, in a manner similar to that described above for Part I.

PART III – Essay

(40 points)

In Part III, you will be asked to write an essay on **ONE** of two questions. The purpose of the essay is to let you put the pieces of the course together in a way that helps you reflect on an important central theme of the course. In your essay, be sure to draw on a range of authors and texts from *all modules* in the semester, *remembering that our “texts” include written texts, art, music, film and lectures*. For each author or text, be sure to clearly state the ideas or issues you find important and significant. *In addition, be sure to state a clear thesis*. This should be a significant statement, which is open to reasonable discussion, debate, analysis and critique. You should state your thesis somewhere in the first paragraph of your essay. You should also remember, at various points throughout your essay, to “situate” your thesis by comparing and contrasting it, as is appropriate, with the ideas, themes, and issues of the authors or texts you're discussing. Excellent essays incorporate richness, complexity, originality and creativity. Excellent essays also incorporate a variety of relevant texts from all parts of the course.

Some General Tips on Writing the Exam

1. It should be possible to tell from the answer what the question was. Sometimes students write answers to questions that were not asked. Please answer the questions that are on this exam.
2. It should be possible to tell from the answer that you've learned something from the course. Please do not base your answers solely or mainly on items of general knowledge which anybody might reasonably be expected to have known before taking C&T, whether from the media, family and friends, high school or your freshman year at Wabash.
3. Back up what you say with specific examples, but in a way that shows you know what you're talking about. For instance, don't just say, “This is clear if you look at Telemachus' childhood.” Say precisely how those childhood experiences were important. Or don't just say, “Mencius makes this point.” Say precisely what the point is, how it is made and why. In other words, don't just toss in a snippet of information or make vague references to an author in passing without further explanation.
4. Organize your answers. Don't just meander from point to point or give the impression that you're making it up as you go along. Have a beginning, a middle and an end to your essay. Put in transitional phrases like, “On the other hand” or “In contrast to this” or “To sum up.”