

Cultures and Traditions 202

Format for Final Exam

May 2, 2006

The final exam will begin at 9 AM on Tuesday, May 2 and will be given (unless your instructor indicates otherwise) in the usual meeting room for your discussion section. You will have three hours to write on the three parts of the exam; you will be provided with a copy of the course syllabus to aid your memory. The exam covers only the second semester of Cultures and Traditions.

Part I: Identification **(4 pairs, each worth 10 points)**

You will be given seven pairs of items—names, terms, ideas, images, etc. You will be asked to pick FOUR of the pairs, identify each item in the pair (who, what, where, when), and state a *significant* relationship between them. You will be graded on two things: how accurate you are identifying the two items in the pair, and how intelligent you are in stating a significant relationship between them.

Part II: Analysis of Quotations **(3 quotations, each worth 10 points)**

You will be given six quotations, two from each of the three modules of the semester. Each quotation will be identified as to its author and source. You will be asked to pick ONE QUOTATION FROM EACH MODULE to analyze. Your analysis should do two things: (1) explain the main issue raised or explored by the quotation, including its significance within the work from which it is taken; (2) explain how this quotation fits into the larger context of the module, referring to other works in the module to support your view. As you write, please do not merely *paraphrase* the quotation; we know what the quotation says. What we want to know is why it is significant, or what it means, and how it fits with or differs from other ideas presented in the module.

Part III: Essay **(1 essay, worth 30 points)**

You will be given two essay topics and asked to write on ONE of them. The purpose of this part of the exam is to let you put the pieces of the course together in a way that helps you reflect on an important theme. *Be sure to state a clear thesis, preferably in your first paragraph.* This should be a significant statement, open to reasonable discussion, debate, analysis, and even critique. Support your thesis with a range of examples from texts from all parts of the semester, remembering that “texts” can include written texts, paintings, music, film, video, and lectures. Since you will have a copy of the syllabus in front of you, simply citing a large number of authors and titles is not particularly impressive. Your essay should draw on important points from the texts you cite and use them in support of your thesis. If you think of some examples that might seem to count against your thesis, you will probably strengthen your essay if you explain why these cases do not in fact refute you.