



Final Exam

Part I (16 pts.)

Matching - 10 pts. (1 pt. each)

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| _____ The narrator | a. constantly mutters irrelevant phrases; bitter about the past |
| _____ Saniya Afifi, landlady | b. marries late in life |
| _____ Hamida, a young woman in her 20s | c. earned a Ph.D. in English Literature |
| _____ Umm Hamida, bath attendant | d. beaten to death by British soldiers |
| _____ Hosna (Bint Mahmoud) | e. hates the alley and leaves it in pursuit of wealth and freedom |
| _____ Abbas, a young barber in love with Hamida | f. has addictions well-known to the alley dwellers |
| _____ Kirsha, the cafe owner | g. earned a Ph.D. in Economics |
| _____ Mustafa Sa'eed | h. dies from a self-inflicted wound |
| _____ Sheikh Darwish, former English teacher | i. a marriage-arranger |
| _____ Wad Rayyes | j. changes women like he changes donkeys |

True/False - 6 pts. (1 pt. each)

- _____ Edward Said is Egyptian, but grew up in America.
- _____ Naguib Mahfouz is Egyptian, and grew up in Egypt.
- _____ In the common lecture, we learned that Tayeb Salih has visited AUB in the past.
- _____ Said limits his examination of Orientalist texts to American and Dutch ones.
- _____ Naguib Mahfouz always wanted to win the Nobel Prize, but didn't.
- _____ Salih's books are, unlike Mahfouz's, not banned anywhere in the Arab world.



Part II (64 pts.)

Note: time-budgeting is the key to success on this section. If you are stuck, go on to the next one. Giving a shorter or less-than-perfect answer on an early question is better than sacrificing a whole question at the end! Please number your answers. Good luck.

1. Choose *one* of the following two questions, and write an essay no longer than one and a half pages. (14 pts.) (These two questions are similar, and you might use some of the same points to support them, but your answer must clearly be in response to one and not the other.)

A. In *Orientalism*, Edward Said makes a major, overarching argument that can be applied to myriad situations worldwide. What is it, and how does he make it?

B. In *Orientalism*, Edward Said makes an argument that applies, unlike his major, overarching argument, more narrowly to the Arab world. What is it, and how does he make it?

2. Choose *one* of the following two questions, and write an essay no longer than one and a half pages. (14 pts.)

A. Situate *Midaq Alley* in the broader context of modernization and postcolonialism. Use two characters to illustrate how Mahfouz deals with these themes in the book.

B. Although *Midaq Alley* is set in a specific time and place, on the book jacket we read that "The universality and timelessness of this book cannot be denied." Comment on this, and support your points with references to specific parts of the book.

3. Choose *one* of the following two questions, and write an essay no longer than one and a half pages. (14 pts.)

A. Briefly describe the following characters from *Season of Migration to the North*: the narrator, Hosna Bint Mahmood, and the Mustafa Sa'eed. Then, relate each to the phrase uttered by the narrator as he struggles in the water at the end of the book: "I choose life." As you do this, be sure to explain the broader context in which life is chosen (or not).

B. In *Season of Migration to the North* the reader encounters both political and inter-personal colonization and domination. But Salih does not portray these in simple, straightforward terms. Sometimes he portrays someone more easily characterized as a dominator or colonizer as passive and dominated, and vice-versa. Give two examples and elaborate on them.



4., 5. Choose *two* of the following questions, and for each write a short essay (no longer than one page). (11 pts. each)

A. The idea of God is important in the writings of Darwin, Nietzsche, Freud, and Hawking. Illustrate this using an example or examples from one or two of these authors.

B. Nietzsche, de Beauvoir, Malraux and Beckett have all been connected with existentialism. Briefly summarize the idea of existentialism and illustrate it using an example or examples from one or two of these authors.

C. Articulate Popper's main argument regarding the practice of science.

D. "Action" is a main theme in Malraux's *Man's Fate*. How is it an answer to the existentialist question? Illustrate this with an example from the book.

E. *Waiting for Godot* has been interpreted in many ways, for example as a metaphor for life under political repression. Write a short essay about one or more interpretations of the play.

F. Of the authors that we read, choose one that touched on the idea of the absurd and elaborate on the absurdity found there.

Have a good semester break! Congratulations on completing the CS program!