

Final Exam

AUB, CVSP 204-7, Fall 2007/2008, Dr. Sonja Mejcher-Atassi

Student's name:

Student's ID number:

Points to remember:

- Please, write as legible as possible.
- The time designated for the final exam is 2 hours. You are advised to read all the questions, before writing down your answers to ensure accurate time allocation. Please, use the last 10 minutes for revision.

Good luck!

PART I – briefly answer the following questions (each 10 points)

1. What characterizes Simone de Beauvoir's approach to feminism, as outlined in *The Second Sex* (1949), as an existentialist one?

2. What does Edward Said mean by Orientalism, how does he define Orientalism, in his book *Orientalism* (1978)?

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3. What are the main binary oppositions in Tayeb Salih's *Season of Migration to the North* (1966) and how does the author deal with them?

PART II – briefly explain, then comment on one of the following quotes (30 points)

1.
“I have no interest in, much less capacity for, showing what the true Orient or Islam really are. Actually I go a great deal further when, very early in the book, I say that words such as “Orient” and “Occident” correspond to no stable reality that exists as a natural fact. (...) Human identity is not only not natural and stable, but constructed, and occasionally even invented outright.”

Edward Said, “Afterword (1995)” to *Orientalism* (1978), p. 331-332.

2.
“I looked through the window at the palm tree standing in the courtyard of our house and I knew that all was still well with life. I looked at its strong straight trunk, at its roots that strike down into the ground, at the green branches hanging down loosely over its top, and I experienced a feeling of assurance. I felt not like a storm-swept feather but like that palm tree, a being with a background, with roots, with a purpose.”

Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (1966), p. 2.

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Part III – write an essay on one of the following topics (40 points)

1. Compare the image of “the other” in de Beauvoir, Said and Saleh – who is “the other” in their texts and how is the image of “the other” treated?
2. Describe your own “journey” through CVSP 204 – how do you link the texts in our syllabus? In your eyes, what do they have in common, how do they relate to each other (you can also talk about problems, difficulties you faced in linking the texts)?

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