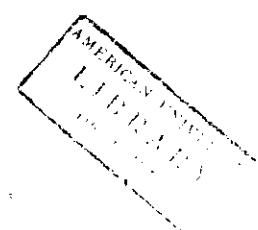


Civilization Sequence 204  
Final Examination June 11, 1997  
Prof. I. Najjar Two Hours



Choose one of the following two questions:

1-- In *Season of Migration to the North*, Mustafa Sa'eed describes himself as a germ of a deadly disease "imported to us" by "the greatest European violence". "Yes, my dear sirs, I came as an invader into your very homes: a drop of the poison which you have injected into the veins of history. 'I am no Othello. Othello was a lie.'"

- (a) Discuss first how Edward Said, the author of *Orientalism*, would respond to describing the European influence on the Orient as a poisonous disease. What message does Edward Said want to leave the student of *Orientalism* with? (30%)
- (b) In what sense was Mustafa Sa'eed a disease and a poison to the Europeans? Did he continue to be so after his return to Sudan? Is there a message in his return to Sudan? Answer adequately. (50%)
- (c) How would Freud view Mustafa Sa'eed's personality psycho-analytically speaking? (20%)

2-- At the end of *Season of Migration to the North*, the narrator declares that he has chosen life, because "there are a few people I want to stay with for the longest possible time and because I have duties to discharge. It is not my concern whether or not life has meaning."

- (a) Why does the narrator come to this decision? What is its significance? Was such a decision expected of him? How do you compare it with Hosna's choice to kill Wad Rayes and commit suicide? (50%)
- (b) Of Mahfouz's characters in *Midaq Alley* which one is the closest to the narrator? Are there any common characteristics between Hosna and Titi or Hamida? Explain adequately. (30%)
- (c) Of Beckett's characters, which one resembles most the narrator? (20%)

Good Luck

