



C.S. 204
Final Examination



Answer two of the following questions:

1. The narrator in T.Salih's Season of Migration to the North concludes his story saying: "All my life I had not chosen, had not decided. Now I am making a decision. I choose life. I shall live 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. If I am unable to forgive, then I shall try to forget. I shall live by force and cunning." What lessons that the narrator learned from the life of Mustafa Sa'eed and that of the other people in his village influenced his final stand. Compare/contrast his stand with that of the characters of Malraux's Man's Fate.
2. Discuss three aspects of the image of Arab societies and culture as presented in N. Mahfouz's Midaq Alley and T. Salih's Season of Migration to the North. To what extent does this image comply with the image of the Orient presented in Orientalist writings as analyzed by Edward Said.
3. According to Freud, the evolution of civilization presents "the struggle between Eros and Death, between the instinct of life and the instinct of destruction." Discuss the manifestations of this struggle in two of the following books: Midaq Alley, Season of Migration to the North, Man's Fate, Waiting for Godot.

