



CS 204
Final Exam
M. Jarrar (sections 11 & 12)

May 31, 2004

Time: 2 hours

Your papers will be graded in terms of five major considerations:

- a. **RELEVANCE:** Your ability to define or limit the issues under discussion
- b. **COHERENCE:** Your ability to select, organize, argue or analyze the issues logically, relatedly, systematically.
- c. **ADEQUACY:** Your ability to present the point of view of the text fairly, forcefully showing a command of the material and an appreciation of the major elements and characteristic "spirit" of the text.
- d. **CRITICAL EVALUATION:** Your ability to apply the vision or views of the text, to compare with other views you have considered, and to measure the views against your own experience and reflection upon the issues presented.
- e. **VERBAL EXPRESSION:** Your ability to use language at the service of your thought. I cannot grade what you have in mind, unless you express it clearly.

Answer any two questions:

1. "The construction of identity-for identity, whether of Orient or of Occident, France or Britain, while obviously a repository or distinct collective experience, is finally a construction – involves establishing opposites and 'others' whose actuality is always subject to the continuous interpretation and re-interpretation of their differences from 'us'." (Edward W. Said, *Orientalism*, 332).
 - a. Identify and discuss the main themes in the quotation.
 - b. How would Edward W. Said's argument apply to Simone de Beauvoir's definition of the other? Discuss.
 - c. Conclude and state your opinion.

2.
 - a. Explain in Detail Darwin's argument that organisms come about by evolution. Give a detailed assessment of his theory.
 - b. Discuss Hawking's view on the origin and fate of the universe we live in.
3. Select one basic problem and discuss it with specific examples from two of the following texts: *Civilization and its Discontents*, *The Second Sex*, & *Midaq Alley*.
4. "Every individual concerned to justify his existence feels that his existence involves an undefined need.. to engage in freely chosen projects." (Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, 9-10)
 - a. Examine the main themes in the quotation.
 - b. How would it apply to Vladimir & Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*? Discuss.
5. Answer either a. & b. or c. & d.
 - a. Does it matter to our lives if the universe has a beginning or not?
 - b. Hamida's body—as Foucault would argue- "was carving out particular spaces of resistance and freedom from an otherwise repressive space." Explain. Was Hamida doomed to become a prostitute?
 - c. Man is thrown-into the world & the essence of man is anguish. Examine the main themes in the quotation. Explain with reference to Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.
 - d. Discuss the themes of 'social change' & 'religious ideology' in Mahfouz' *Midaq Alley*.