



CVSP 204
Final Exam

June 2005
Prof. M. Amyuni

Choose 2 out of the 4 questions below and write 2 clear and well-focused essays keeping close to the texts. Support your essays with examples from the books we have read. (50% for each essay).

I. Orientalism

Edward Said writes:

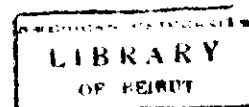
....Human identity is not only not natural and stable, but constructed and, occasionally, even intended outright....No one finds it easy to live uncomplainingly and fearlessly with the thesis that human reality is constantly being made and unmade, and that anything like a stable essence is constantly under threat.

1. Explain the significance of this passage. Underline its main ideas and link them to some basic idea(s) we have encountered in Orientalism.
2. Examine this passage in the light of a theme or a character we have encountered in Malraux, Beauvoir, Beckett and Tayeb Salih (Choose 2 out of these authors' books).
3. In your conclusion, react personally and sincerely to this passage.

II. Season of Migration to the North

Tayeb Salih writes:

The world has turned suddenly upside down.
Love? Love does not do this. This is hatred. I
feel hatred and seek revenge; my adversary is within
and I needs must confront him. Even so, there is still
in my mind a modicum of sense that is aware of the
irony of the situation. I begin from where Mustafa Sa'eed
had left off....If only I had told her the truth perhaps she
would not have acted as she did. I had lost the war
because I did not know and did not choose. For a long
time I stood in front of the iron door. Now I am on my own:
there is no escape, no place of refuge, no safeguard.
Outside, my world was a wide one; now it had
contracted, had withdrawn upon itself, until I myself
had become the world, no world existing outside
of me. Where, then, were the roots that struck down
into times past? Where the memories of death and life?
What had happened to the caravan and to the tribe?....
Love? Love does not do this. This is hatred. Here I am,
standing in Mustafa Sa'eed's house in front of the iron door,



the door of the rectangular room with the triangular roof and the green windows, the key in my pocket and my adversary inside with, doubtless, a fiendish look of happiness on his face. I am the guardian, the lover, and the adversary.



OR

III. On Time

Beckett writes:

"Astride of a grave and a difficult birth. Down in the hole, lingeringly, the grave-digger puts on the forceps. We have time to grow old. The air is full of our cries. But habit is a great deadener..."

- a) This seems to be a very dark image of the human condition. Explain it.
- b) Let Malraux react to this vision through a few of his heroes in *Man's Fate*.
- c) What would be S. de Beauvoir's position in relation to Beckett's?
- d) What would be Tayeb Salih's as seen in *Season of Migration to the North*?

OR

IV. On The Outsider

The theme of alienation recurs in our Twentieth Century Literature. It makes man/woman feel a Stranger, an Outsider in one's home, society and/or the world at large.

- a) Discuss it in the light of Chen, Didi and Gogo, Mustafa Sa'eed, the Narrator, and Hosna.
- b) Show in what way each is an Outsider, what is each one's condition, what feelings, problems etc...each has.
- c) Is there a way out for the Outsider?
- d) Is there a difference between East and West in this respect? Or is this condition universal?

Last but not least

- Focus well, take examples from the texts write clearly and be personal in your conclusion(s), by taking a stand after you convey what each author says about the problems or the characters you are discussing.
- Choose your illustrations from both our Western and Arab writers.

