



English 221
Final Examination

Spring Semester, 1996-97

June 16, 1997

INSTRUCTIONS: Read over the entire examination before you begin to write. Choose two topics from the list below as subjects for two brief, well-planned, well-organized, and well-written essays. Be sure to avoid overlapping and repetition; i.e., do not write too often about the same work, unless the subject matter and approach are radically different. Remember to make frequent specific reference to the texts under discussion.

TIMING: Two hours: sixty minutes per essay. Although the examination has been planned for two hours, you may have an extra half hour for planning and proofreading if you wish. All booklets will be collected **PROMPTLY** at 10:30 a.m. Plan your time wisely and well.

FORMAT: Please write on every other line and observe conventional margins. Be sure you number your topics.

TOPICS: Choose two (2).

1. Position of women. The 19th century English novel presents the reader with a wealth of material on the position of women in England during the 1800's. With specific reference to *Heart of Darkness*, *Jude the Obscure*, and at least two other works you have studied this semester, write an essay on the position of women in 19th century England.

2. Winds of change. As the century advances, novels more often deal with economic and social issues sometimes related to growing materialism, the consequences of the industrial revolution, and the steady march of empire. Discuss with specific reference to *Heart of Darkness*, *Jude the Obscure*, and at least two other works you have read this semester.

3. Style and theme. Style and theme in the novel may be seen as complementary. Write an essay in which you show how the author's style (technique) supports (complements) the themes in *Heart of Darkness*, *Jude the Obscure*, and at least two other works you have studied this semester.

4. Self-Knowledge. Marlow: "The most you can hope from [life] is some knowledge of yourself." The quest for self-knowledge appears significantly in several of the works you have read this semester. Discuss the role of self-knowledge and the authors' ways of presenting that role in *Heart of Darkness*, *North and South*, and two other works you have read this semester.

HINTS:

1. Keep the topic in the forefront at all times. Reread the topic several times as you write.
2. Avoid plot summary.
3. Avoid broad generalities. Be specific.
4. Leave time for proofreading.

GOOD LUCK!

