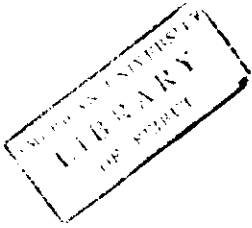
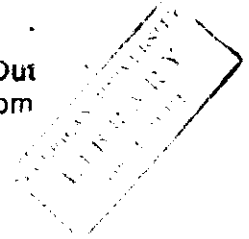


C.2



English 223
Contemporary Women's Fiction
Final Examination
Spring 1996

Not To Be Taken Out
Reserve Reading Room



Time: 2 Hours

Choose one of the following essay questions:

1. Atwood's protagonist in the *Handmaid's Tale* says towards the end of her story:

I keep on going with this sad and hungry and sordid, this limping mutilated story, because after all I want you to hear it By telling you anything at all I'm at least believing in you, I believe you're there, I believe you into being. Because I'm telling you this story I will your existence. I tell, therefore you are.

- What is the nature of the relationship between teller and listener as described in the lines above? What prompts Offred to make this statement?
 - What view of Gilead is implied in the lines above?
 - Other texts tell equally mutilated, open-ended stories. Discuss in depth with reference to three novels including Atwood's.
2. Both Mukherjee and Morrison revise the traditional and canonical image of America in their works. They effect that partly by toppling traditional literary images and topoi. In a thought-provoking and lucid essay, reflect on how this stylistic and thematic revision is carried out.
 3. The theme of madness is a recurring one in several of the novels you have read. To what extent do you think it is deployed as a symbol and for what end? Write in some detail about how this theme is exploited by women writers. Refer to three texts.

