

SAMPLE MID-TERM QUESTIONS

Below you will find THREE (3) possible exam questions. You will choose TWO (2) and write your answers in essay form.

1) SUBSTANTIVE DEFINITION:

From the list below, you will choose ONE (1) of the following terms and provide a *substantive definition*. Your answer should provide the following:

- a) a full and accurate **definition** of the term;
- b) an explanation/illustration of how the term functions in the works of AT LEAST ONE (1) of the theorists we have looked at so far;
- c) a discussion of the significance of the term to literary theory.

Be as **specific** as possible and **concretize and illustrate** your discussion with detailed references to the primary texts.

SAMPLE SELECTION:

CATHARSIS

2) SIGHT PASSAGE

For the following passage conduct a **detailed close reading**. DO NOT simply write paraphrase or "plot summary," but rather explain the **importance** of the passage with regard to the core questions and concerns of literary theory and of the course so far. Be sure to illustrate your ideas with direct references to the passage in question and to **use** and **define** appropriate terminology.

Augustine of Hippo, from *The Trinity*

Whoever, then, can understand the word, not only before it sounds, but even before the images of its sounds are contemplated in thought--such a word belongs to no language, that is, to none of the so-called national languages, of which ours is Latin--whoever, I say, can understand this can already see through this mirror and in this enigma some likeness of the Word of whom it was said: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God; and the Word was God."

3) CONCEPT MAP

Choose ONE (1) of the concept maps projected on the screen at the front of the room. Diagram the map in your exam booklet and fill in any missing elements. Then, explain the map, its key relationships, and its importance to literary theory and the core concerns of the course so far.

Aristotle's Empiricism: Atomism + Dialectics

