

Our midterm will be held on October 21 during our regular class time. This exam is meant to help solidify the concepts we have learned so far in the Romantic Era unit of the course and to confirm that you are successfully retaining information about the major authors, texts, and themes on our syllabus, from Blake to Keats. You do not need to memorize minor details such as dates and place names, but do have a sense of the chronology and historical context of the authors we are studying. The exam is closed book, so please do not have your notes or textbook out. I will ask everyone to sign an honor code prior to starting the exam.

The second and perhaps most important purpose of the midterm is to help you reassess your studying techniques for the latter two units of this course. What kind of studying mechanisms will help you make the most of our Victorian and Modern Era classes? What is the best way to approach your readings? Are you taking too many notes or too few during class? Can you be doing more review after lectures to reinforce your knowledge? We'll take some time to discuss studying, reading, and note taking techniques and to brainstorm different ways to master all the material packed into our syllabus. There will be no multiple choice questions on the exam. Please do not think of the exam as a way for me to discover what it is you do not know or don't remember; my true motivation for this exam is to give you the opportunity to show me (and yourself!) how much you've learned in the first five weeks of this course. The structure of the test is as follows:

10 Short Answer Questions

These will be short prompts asking you to show off bits of important knowledge that were taught in class. You should answer these in just 3-4 sentences. For example, "Who are the 'Big 6' of Romantic Poetry? What is a major difference between the so-called first-generation and second-generation Romantic poets?"

5 Passage IDs

I will provide 5-6 lines from several of the readings we went over in class. (There will be no passages that we did not discuss together or underline as a class). Select 5 passages and for each:

- Identify the author and title of the text
- Provide a quick translation of the passage into "plain English"
- Circle one part of the text (or more) and give one quick close reading point. Comment on the form of the poem (rhyme, metaphor, or tone).
- Tell me a significance of the passage. What other texts does it relate to? Why is this text on our syllabus? What does it reveal about the author or the text as a whole?

5 Key term IDs

You will see a list of terms we learned in this course. Select 5 terms and for each:

- Identify the author or text that this term comes from
- Define the term
- Explain its significance

For example, a key term ID might be "conversation poem." In your answer, you should explain the key components of the form and mention some major examples of conversation poems from our syllabus. Explain how one might recognize a conversation poem and what that might tell us about the poet. Before the midterm, I will hand out a sample list of key terms and we will brainstorm together in class to create a study guide.

An important hint: try your hardest not to leave any questions blank on the exam. Even if you do not immediately recognize a passage ID, go ahead and close read the passage to get the maximum number of points possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the exam! I am also happy to hold extra review sessions or study groups during office hours.

*The final exam will have exactly the same structure as the midterm, only it will be slightly longer.