

ENG 38001
Critical Theory and Reading
MIDTERM EXAM (20%, 200 points)

DUE: October 9, 2018 (11:59pm, EST)

DIRECTIONS: This is a take-home exam, which means that you are permitted to discuss the topics with your peers, as well as use all course materials available to you. Choose any two of the below topics. You have the option of combining your two choices into one answer, but be sure to answer each topic fully. Each topic should have a 500-1000 word answer (and so, if you combine your answers, that one answer should be 1000-2000 words long). You must cite the textbook and lecture notes to support your points (in-text citations, no Works Cited needed), but what is most important is that you demonstrate an **understanding of the knowledge** you have gained in this course thus far. *What you know is important, but demonstrating that you understand what you know is even more important*—demonstrating an understanding of how what you know fits together (or doesn't fit together) in the larger picture of critical theory and reading. Your exam will be graded on how well you answer the question, using the supporting material from the course (textbook and lectures), as well as the **insight and depth of thought** that you bring to the topic.

TOPICS:

1. How have the applicable concepts of Plato's philosophy thrived (or not thrived) in later critical theories? Be sure to analyze thinking up through Marxism.
2. How have the applicable concepts of Aristotle's philosophy thrived (or not thrived) in later critical theories? Be sure to analyze thinking up through Marxism.
3. How have the applicable concepts of medieval thought thrived (or not thrived) in later critical theories? Be sure to analyze thinking up through Marxism.
4. How have the applicable concepts of Humanism thrived (or not thrived) in later critical theories? Be sure to analyze thinking up through Marxism.
5. How have the applicable concepts of Kant's philosophy thrived (or not thrived) in later critical theories? Be sure to analyze thinking up through Marxism.
6. How have the applicable concepts of Hegel's philosophy thrived (or not thrived) in later critical theories? Be sure to analyze thinking up through Marxism.
7. Choose a short poem or short story. Include this work, or give an online citation for this work, with your exam. This work will not count toward the word count of your answer. Explain how that work might be understood from the perspective of:
 - any thinker from one of these historical categories:
 - Classical thought
 - medieval thought
 - early modern thought
 - any thinker from the Enlightenment or later (including Kant), thus far covered in class.