

Exam Two Take-Home Essay Questions

Choose one of the following questions and write an essay in answer that is at least 1,500 words (about 5 pages). You should use your anthology, *King Solomon's Mines*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* for quotations and other supporting material, but do not use any other outside sources. You may only choose texts that we read on and after Tuesday, October 12th. Your essay must be in MLA format. Be sure to put the number of the question you are answering below your name on the first page of your essay. Essays are due at the beginning of class on **Tuesday, November 21st**. If you are planning to miss class on Tuesday, you must have your paper to my mailbox (TUR 4301) before 10 a.m. that day.

- 1) As we all soon head out on our winter holiday travels (whether at home or abroad), consider that one of the most powerful tools of imperialism is commercial travel. In the Victorian period as well as our own, to open a land to tourists was to claim it in very particular ways. Compare and contrast two works that deal with Victorian England's interactions with colonial others and discuss how they collude with and/or challenge this discourse of ownership. Be sure to connect the individual author's views with larger Victorian discourses of imperialism.
- 2) For the Victorians, the imperial project was as much about defining England and Englishness as it was defining the colonial other. Compare and contrast two works that deal with Victorian England's interactions with colonial others and discuss how they collude with and/or challenge this discourse of nationalism. Be sure to connect the individual authors' views with larger Victorian discourses of imperialism.
- 3) Throughout the past few weeks, we have come back time and time again to the ideas of taxonomy and classification and how they were used by the Victorians to make sense of their world. Choose two authors and compare how they use these methods to order their literary world. You must choose one central concept in order to make your comparison (i.e. good/evil; individual/ society etc.). Be sure to connect the individual authors' views with the more general Victorian worldview.
- 4) The Victorians often used discourses of imperialism and evolution to represent both class and gender cultural anxieties. Both imperialist and evolutionary discourses became a way of talking about issues such as poverty and gentlemanliness. Compare and contrast two texts that mobilize imperialism or evolution (or both) to work out either class or gender issues (i.e. you must choose to write on either class or gender, but not both).