EKSAMENSOPPGAVE i
ENG3314 - Spesialseringsemne i litteratur
HØST 2012

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Eksamensdato: 14. desember 2012
Eksamenstid: 6 timer
Studiepoeng: 15

Språkform: Engelsk

Antall sider: 3

Sensur dato: 14. januar 2013

Merk! Resultatene kunngjøres på studentweb.
Answer ONE question only.

1. “Hobomok, Last of the Mohicans and Hope Leslie are not only about Native Americans, but about class, ethnicity, gender and religion in the future United States. And all three novels see the role of women as the most important issue in nineteenth-century American politics.” Write an essay in which you review arguments for and against this position, before presenting and supporting (through the careful use of quotation and textual explication) your own point of view. Your answer should give consideration to at least two of the three novels mentioned, but you may concentrate on one if you wish.

OR

2. In what ways can writers such as Erdrich, Momaday and Silko be described not only as American but as Native American writers? What, if anything, separates them from mainstream American literature of the twentieth century? You may choose to concentrate on one of these three authors in your discussion, but you should take at least one other into consideration. You can also point out differences between the authors of your choice, if you feel that these are significant. Your answer should pay attention to themes (such as war, alcoholism, poverty, etc.), plots (such as that of the return), ideas about authorship, literary modes (realism and myth/legend, for instance), narrative technique and (when appropriate) characterization (are all of the characters credibly or realistically portrayed, or do other factors come into play?).

OR

3. Write an essay in which you chart the nature of Mary Rowlandson’s attitudes to Wamponoags and other Native Americans in her Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson (1682): how does she characterize them, and herself, at the start, and do such characterizations change as the Narrative progresses? Finally, consider the significance of her “redemption” at the end: in what ways can she be described as having been “redeemed”?

OR

4. Provide a brief (no more than half a page) reading of Walt Whitman’s poem Yonnondio” (text provided) and use this as the starting point for an essay on attitudes to Native Americans in nineteenth-century American literature.
Yonnondio

[The sense of the word is lament for the aborigines. It is an Iroquois term; and has been used for a personal name.]

A SONG, a poem of itself - the word itself a dirge,
Amid the wilds, the rocks, the storm and wintry night,
To me such misty, strange tableaux the syllables calling up;
Yonnondio - I see, far in the west or north, a limitless ravine, with plains and mountains dark,
I see swarms of stalwart chieftains, medicine-men, and warriors,
As flitting by like clouds of ghosts, they pass and are gone in the twilight,
(Race of the woods, the landscapes free, and the falls!)  
No picture, poem, statement, passing them to the future:)
Yonnondio! Yonnondio! - unlimn'd they disappear;
To-day gives place, and fades - the cities, farms, factories fade;
A muffled sonorous sound, a wailing word is borne through the air for a moment,
Then blank and gone and still, and utterly lost.

Walt Whitman