Take Home Exam #1
(250 points)

Due: Monday, October 21 at the beginning of class

General Information: This exam is designed to allow you to show your ability to make use of concepts we’ve discussed in class and to demonstrate your ability to “mine” the text in support of your ideas. Therefore, here are some things to keep in mind. I want to see you use the text (i.e. quotes) and not rely on class examples for your support. An exam that simply regurgitates class discussion will not earn a passing grade. You’ll also want to demonstrate your knowledge of the entire book. Therefore, choose examples from a number of places in the novel, including the end. I’ve given you room to interpret the questions in a number of ways; however, be sure you answer the question I’ve given you. Resist the temptation to follow tangents, unless you can establish their relevance.

I will be grading these exams by looking at your answers: the clarity of your thoughts, your use of specific passages from the text to support your ideas, your ability to clearly explain how your examples relate to the question I’ve asked, and your ability to relate individual examples to the overall topic you’ve selected. However, numerous grammatical and/or proofreading errors will interfere with my ability to follow your argument and will result in a reduction of your grade, so please edit carefully. Also, be sure you meet all format and length requirements, or you’ll receive a reduction in your grade. Format/length requirements are as follows:

1 inch margins on all sides
12 pt Times New Roman font
4-5 pages in length (aim for a minimum of 2 or more pages for each question)

You must answer one question on each text. You may only answer one question on a film. The other question must be on a written text. However, you are welcome to answer both questions on the written texts.

Good luck.

The Mysterious Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (choose one of four)

1. This novel was considered a mystery story, so Stevenson’s use of the 3rd person limited omniscient narrator seems entirely appropriate. Discuss the way in which this type of narrator functions to sustain the mystery. In other words, how does telling the story from the perspective of Utterson’s consciousness create the conditions necessary for a mystery in the novel?

2. In class, we discussed this novel as a classical tragedy. Given the definition of classical tragedy I gave you (it’s on my website, as well), discuss the novel’s tragic elements, focusing on Jekyll as a tragic hero, but addressing other elements, as well.

3. Jekyll and Hyde have been called doppelgängers or doubles. Discuss how the two characters mirror one another, addressing not just physical characteristics, but mentality and behaviors, as well.

4. This novel is an early example of the use of multiple narrators. Discuss each narrator in the novel and the information they provide that contributes to both the mystery of novel and its resolution.
5. In class, we discussed *The Nutty Professor* as a classical comedy. Given the definition of classical comedy I gave you (it’s on my website), discuss the film in terms of that definition, focusing on Sherman Klump, but addressing other elements, as well.

*The Odyssey* (choose one of four)

1. This text is one of the first complete epics to be discovered in written form. Using the definition of epic I provided (also on my website), discuss *The Odyssey*’s epic features. Be sure to address all the elements.

2. We see several significant examples of repetition in the text. Choose one or two examples and discuss how they function in their particular location. How does the story change when it’s retold? How do the different narrators use the story when they tell it?

3. In class, we discussed the pitfalls of temptation as a major theme in the epic. Choose two or three examples and discuss how Homer uses the example to illustrate not only how temptation affects the characters, but also what the example says about human nature in general.

4. The rule of hospitality is often used to suggest to the reader the character of many of the epic’s characters. Choose 2 or 3 examples and discuss how the hospitality rule gives information about the hosts and/or guests. Is hospitality offered? Is it given when it’s offered? How is the behavior regarding the rule used to give info about the characterization of the individuals involved?

5. *O Brother Where Art Thou!* takes many elements from the epic *The Odyssey*, yet these elements are transformed in ways that make it difficult to recognize them as epic conventions. Use the definition of epic I gave you and discuss the film in terms of this definition. After analyzing the film, do you think it can be considered an epic?

Extra Credit – 25 points

You have two options here:

1. Answer any one of the above questions that interests you. Select only one and follow the directions for answering an exam question.

2. Choose either *Jekyll and Hyde* or *The Odyssey* (in film version). Discuss the changes made to the characterization of the protagonist when the film was made and discuss how the changes made affect the viewer’s feelings toward that character. How was the protagonist characterized in the novel and how is it changed in the film? How do you feel about the film character as opposed to the protagonist in the written text?