

Exam Preparation

The exam runs 90 minutes and takes place
Tuesday 19 July in Verfügungsgebäude 3.101 (NOT 1.105!), 10:15–11:45.

Structure

1. Lecture material (33% of your mark — count 30 minutes)
2. Seminar material (67% of your mark — count 60 minutes)

The lecture exam will require you to answer three out of ten questions provided concerning the Thursday lectures in a paragraph (and no more than two paragraphs) each.

The seminar exam will require you to reproduce and apply knowledge about the Middle English literature and the secondary literature studied this term.

You may only answer questions from the lecture material that do not overlap significantly with questions from the seminar material. You will be told at the start of the exam of time which, if any, lecture questions may not be chosen.

Specifics and Preparation

The seminar exam will require you not only to reproduce, but also to *discuss* knowledge gained. To this end, you will have to know the majority of primary texts, and a good selection of secondary texts, fairly well, but the most important thing is to be able to discuss their use of landscape and environment intelligently. It will still be useful to learn a small number of concepts from literary criticism (deep ecology, chronotope), but you should prepare to incorporate these concepts into your essays/answers organically rather than to define them out of context.

There will be one question on **theory**, including both the secondary literature and Emerson's *Nature*. This question will ask you to choose *any two* from a selection of at least half a dozen quotations from these sources and discuss them and the subject matter addressed in these quotations in a single short essay. (That is, *two* quotations, by different authors, discussed in *one* essay.) Accurately representing your sources is only one part of this assignment; producing a coherent discussion of the subject matter under discussion is just as important. Since your answer will take the form of a short essay, you would do well to apply your training in outlining: there will be no time to write a full draft followed by a final answer, but you can jot down a quick outline of your logical structure before starting on your answer.

Following the theory question, there will be a small number of questions with a more central focus on **primary literature**. Here too, you will be given some freedom to choose which texts to involve in at least

some of your answers. Even so, since we are only reading a small selection of primary texts, you would do best to study all of them well in terms of their use of space and environment.

Some pointers for exam preparation:

1. Study your class notes;
2. Study these secondary texts as follows, and with the understanding that exam questions will generally only concern what has been discussed in class (skip texts not here listed):
 - White: in full
 - Saunders: get some sense of the historical functions of forest (appr. first third of the essay)
 - Fromm: in full
 - Manes: get a general sense
 - Bonnemaïson: be able to define, distinguish, and explain:
 - Territory, geographical setting, and geosymbolism (early on in the chapter)
 - Humanist geography (end of chapter)
 - Nolan: be able to speak in general terms about the way Boccaccio and Chaucer use the navigation of architecture to represent sex (for Chaucer, be prepared to discuss the floor plan of Pandarus's house in some detail)
 - Kearney: get a general sense
 - Gurevich: in full
 - Putter: in full (skip the French quotations)
 - George: in full
 - Langeslag: in full
3. Study our primary texts for their environmental features, and prepare to apply critical theory from any of the above, as well as from class discussion, to any of these texts. NB:
 - Ignore the primary readings for week one, as these were never discussed;
 - Don't waste time on repetitive or less relevant sections. In *Parliament of Fowls*, for instance, focus on the fact of the dream, the gate, and the basic setup of the debate, not e.g. the inventory of characters found in the garden or the exact development of the debate.

Once you have studied these various elements, the single best way to prepare is to ask yourself questions like the following:

- What does primary text X have to say about human attitudes to their environment?
- What literary functions of the environment does primary text X illustrate?
- What is the point made by secondary text X?
- How would I adduce primary texts in a discussion of the topic taken on in secondary text X?

Then write a variety of outlines and/or essay drafts to answer these questions: you will be able to draw on these (from memory) during the exam.

Good luck!