

MIDTERM EXAM – STUDENT GUIDE

Comparative Analysis

What will you do?

In class, you will write a comparative essay on:

one work studied in this course, and

one other work of your choice.

The second work may be from **any literary genre or literary tradition.**

Midterm question

Compare how the two works explore a similar human, social, political, or artistic question. What important similarity and difference can you find, and how do the writers' choices of language, form, imagery, character, narration, or structure shape their meanings?

Before the exam

You may prepare by:

choosing the two works;

reviewing the main ideas;

selecting useful passages from the course text;

thinking about one similarity and one difference.

Do not memorize a complete essay. You will write the essay in class.

What may you bring?

You may bring:

the literary texts;

class handouts and course materials;

your own brief handwritten annotations.

Electronic devices, online sources, prepared essays, and AI-generated writing are not allowed during the exam.

Textual evidence

For the work studied in class:

use at least **three short quotations**;

explain the language or literary technique, not only the plot.

For the second work:

use quotations or precise references to scenes, images, characters, or important moments.

Suggested essay structure

Introduction: Introduce the two works and your main comparative argument.

Body: Discuss both works together through one important similarity and one important difference.

Conclusion: Explain what the comparison helps us understand more clearly.

Remember

There is no single correct comparison. A strong essay has:

- a clear argument;

- relevant evidence;

- close attention to the texts;

- a meaningful comparison rather than two separate summaries.

Duration: 120 minutes

Suggested length: 1000-1200 words