QUESTIONS FOR THE FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
TEACHER OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAMME

I. Linguistics


3. Grammars as mental constructs (mental grammars) and as theories of mental grammars. The nature of (natural) language and the goals of linguistic theory.


5. Roles of a foreign language teacher. Possibilities and limits of (language) education: what a foreign language teacher can and cannot do in order to develop their learners’ knowledge and use of the foreign language. Epistemological foundations of generative (bio)linguistics and (language) pedagogy.


9. Language and thought. The linguistic relativity / Whorfian hypothesis.

10. The evolution of language.
II. Literature

Preambulum

The comprehensive examination concluding your literary studies is not another end-of-the-semester exam (“kollokvium”). The subjects below demand much broader literary intelligence: integrative skills are needed in handling lecture and seminar materials as well as related required readings.

1. Ethical perspectives and contemporary narratives
2. Conflicting generations and the cultural divide
3. Transformations of the novel as a genre
4. Variations on postmodern imagination
5. Variations on postmodern narrative techniques
6. Foregrounded ethnic perspectives and multiculturalism
7. Feminist deconstructions of traditional/modernist “feminine” perspectives and women’s experience fiction
8. Variations on colonialism, postcolonialism and new internationalism
9. History in contemporary narrative
10. Magic(al) realism
11. Developments in contemporary poetries in English
12. Developments in contemporary dramas in English
III. Culture

1. Some contrasting definitions and interpretations of “culture.”

2. The nation-state model, notions of cultural pluralism, and the cultures of Great Britain, the US, and Canada.

3. The Bill of Rights as a reflection of American values; milestone shifts in interpretations of First Amendment rights.

4. The American interpretation of democracy; the separation of powers and the history of federalism in the US.

5. American culture and the Protestant heritage. The concept and crisis of the American Dream.


7. Milestones in the history of parliamentarianism in Great Britain, the role of the Monarchy today and contemporary issues of parliamentary reform: the Witan (Witenagemot); 1100 Charter of Liberties; Magna Carta, Article of Barons, Great Seal; Simon de Monfort and parliamentary reform; The Civil War - The Bishop Wars, long/short/rump parliament, execution of Charles I; The Glorious Revolution; Exclusion Bill, Tories/Whigs, Declaration of Rights, Bill of Union; Reform Acts (1832, 1867); Parliament Acts (1911, 1949).

8. The Church, the state, and English identity: 1509 - 1914.


10. So-called “English” culture, global culture, and global conflict.
Readings

I. Linguistics


You should be prepared to discuss in detail the art and particular poems of your choice by any three American and any three British poets as well as the art and one drama by any three American and any three British dramatists enlisted below (six plays in all). You should also be prepared to report on your personal reading experience of altogether ten British and American post-war novels.

British Literature:

Fiction:
5 post-war novels discussed in the Contemporary Literatures in English Seminar

Poetry:
Beckett, Samuel
Gunn, Thom
Heaney, Seamus
Hill, Geoffrey
Hughes, Ted
Larkin, Philip
Mahon, Derek
Montague, John
Drama:
Friel, Brian: *Translations, Making History*
Osborne, John: *Look Back in Anger*
Pinter, Harold: *The Birthday Party, The Dumb Waiter, The Caretaker*
Shaffer, Peter: *Amadeus*
Stoppard, Tom: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, Travesties*

American Literature

Fiction:
5 post-war novels required for the Contemporary Literatures in English colloquium

Poetry:
Angelou, Maya
Ashbery, John
Baraka, Amiri
Berryman, John
Bishop, Elizabeth
Bly, Robert
Brooks, Gwendolyn
Corso, Gregory
Duncan, Robert
Ginsberg, Allen
Harjo, Joy
Jarrell, Randall
Lowell, Robert
O’Hara, Frank
Olson, Charles
Plath, Sylvia
Roethke, Theodore
Sexton, Anne
Snyder, Gary
Song, Cathy
Warren, Robert Pen

Drama:
Albee, Edward: *Zoo Story, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
Hansberry, Lorraine: *A Raisin in the Sun*
Mamet, David Alan: *American Buffalo, House of Games, Glengarry Glen Ross*
Miller, Arthur: *Death of a Salesman, After the Fall*
Shepard, Sam: *Buried Child, True West, The Tooth of Crime*
Williams, Tennessee: *A Streetcar Named Desire, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Night of the Iguana*
Wilson, August: *Fences, Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom, The Piano Lesson*
Recommended Bibliography


**III. Culture**

1. Matthew Arnold: Culture and Anarchy (Chapter I, available online)
   Clifford Geertz: Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight
   Raymond Williams: Culture is Ordinary


3. The Bill of Rights (available online)
   Exploring Constitutional Conflicts:
   [http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/clear&pdanger.htm](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/clear&pdanger.htm)
   [http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/incitement.htm](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/incitement.htm)


7. [http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/](http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/)
   Excerpts from the Oxford Companion to British History


9. No required readings

    Barber, Benjamin R.: Jihad vs. McWorld
    Huntington, Samuel: The Clash of Civilizations