

Take Home Midterm

Guidelines

1. This midterm has three parts. Analyze the quotation from Part One, Analyze the quotation from Part Two, and answer the question from Part Three. Your answer to Part One should be approximately two pages long, and will count for 1/3 of your grade; your answer to Part Two should be approximately two pages long, and will count for 1/3 of your grade; your answer to Part Three should be approximately two pages long, and will count for 1/3 of your grade. Your completed examination should be 6 pages (approximately 1,800 words) long. You are advised to cite the assigned readings.
2. Exams are due on Thursday, 9 February 2012. Late exams will be penalized.
3. This is not a research paper. Use of secondary sources is neither expected nor encouraged. You are free to discuss your ideas with each other and with your instructors; the paper you submit, however, should reflect your own work. Please review the handout "Paper Writing Guidelines" before beginning this assignment.
4. All midterms must be submitted to turnitin.com by midnight on February 9th.
5. Turnitin.com class ID: 4812058 Password: 110jpower

Part One

Analyze this quotation. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Abraham Lincoln, *The Gettysburg Address*

Part Two

Analyze this quotation. What does the passage mean? Is it coherent? How does it contribute to the argument of the text as a whole? How does it fit into the broader context of American political thought in its era? (For more detailed directions, see the handout "Paper Writing Guidelines.")

"A free man in a free democracy has no duty whatever toward other men of the same rank and standing, except respect, courtesy, and good will."

William Graham Sumner, *What The Social Classes Owe To Each Other*

Part Three

Answer the following question.

"Our Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful. The law regards man as man, and takes no account of his surroundings or of his color when his civil rights as guaranteed by the supreme law of the land are involved."

Justice Harlan, *Plessy v Ferguson*

Imagine you are W.E.B. DuBois. In the weekly packet of mail from Washington you receive a copy of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Write a critical review and response, focusing on Harlan's dissent. What, from DuBois's point of view, are the strengths and weaknesses of Harlan's arguments? Do you agree? Why or why not?