

English and Cultural Studies 3Q03E
 Cultural Studies and Critical Theory 3Q03E



Jeff Wall, *Dead Troops Talk* (A Vision After an Ambush of a Red Army Patrol near Moqor, Afghanistan, Winter 1986) [1996]

History of Critical Theory: Representation, Education, and the Question of the Just Community

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FINAL EXAMINATION FORMAT & STUDY TIPS

Wed 18 Dec	19:30	T-29-105
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The final examination for this course will be written in T-29-105 on Wednesday 18 December 2013 at 7:30 pm. The examination will be two hours in duration. There will be one essay question. You will be asked to write about the work of a number of thinkers assigned on this course. You are responsible for all of the assigned materials on the course, i.e., all assigned materials by Plato, Aristotle, Sidney, Locke, and Kant.

Here are a few suggestions regarding your preparations for the exam:

* Read all the assigned course materials with care, soaking up both their local details and

their large arguments and pressing worries.

- * Connect what was said in class to details and arguments of the assigned materials.
- * If you missed a week of the course, borrow good notes from others.
- * Use the *Study Questions and Course Blog* document as a tool to help ensure a detailed comprehension of the course and lecture materials.
- * Carefully consider the course's major themes and lines of inquiry. The course outline is a good place to begin that consideration. What specific questions and problems connect the assigned materials? In what ways do the thinkers on the course pose and investigate these questions and problems similarly and differently?

When writing the exam:

- * Avoid making large generalizations based on things you heard in class and instead move quickly and repeatedly from the lectures to specific details. The *Study Questions and Course Blog* document is designed to help you make those connections and to keep you focussed.
- * Return to the midterm examination debrief document posted on the coursepage. There are lots of useful study guides there that apply to your final examination. Think carefully about the strengths and the weaknesses of your midterm examination, ensuring that you learned from that experience and that you can apply those lessons to writing your final examination.
- * Consistently ground your claims in particular details and examples drawn from the assigned texts. The object here is to support your claims and to convey that you have read the assigned texts with care, and are therefore familiar with their arguments, terms, and examples. In other words, demonstrate that you have read the assigned texts by being able to refer to the particular arguments, illustrations, terms, and turns in those texts. Being able to demonstrate that you've listened carefully in class and taken good notes is a great first step. But Andrew and I will also be looking for evidence that you've also read the assigned materials, and that you've linked what was said in class to what the thinkers on the course actually say in their texts.
- * Start many of your sentences with the phrase, "For example." This way you turn your exam answer towards those specific details.
- * Don't forget to answer the question! I.e., carefully consider the particular focus of the final examination question. Be careful not to put down on paper everything that you know about the thinkers on the course. Instead, route what you know through

the particular focus of the midterm examination question. Use the exam question to organize your thoughts and focus your response. A specific question is being asked of you. Answer that question.

- * Remember to pace yourself: i.e., ensure that you devote as much time and effort to each of the thinkers you are discussing. Bring a watch.
- * Begin by taking a deep breath. Compose yourself. You've attended classes, done the readings, taken good lecture notes, thought rigorously about the arguments at hand, and considered the ways in which the lectures spring from the readings and the readings inform the lectures. Now is an opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to your own education and to grappling with the questions and problems that quicken the course.

Andrew and I very much look forward to reading your examinations!