



Høgskolen i Telemark

Slutteksamen

2003 – 002: American Literature and Culture

06. 05. 2009

Tid: 4 timer

Målform: Engelsk

Sidetal (med denne sida): 4

Hjelpemiddel: Engelsk-engelsk ordbok

Merknader:

Vedlegg: 1

Eksamensresultata blir offentliggjort på nettet, via Arena høgskole. I tillegg finn du eksamensresultatslister på utsiden av eksamenskontoret, men da trenger du kandidatnummeret ditt, så du bør notere dette på en lapp og legge den i lommeboka.



Avdeling for allmennvitenskaplige fag.



Please answer only **ONE** of the following three questions.

1. "Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962) may be read as a love story, in which Martha and George arrive at a possible new start after having their illusions crushed through a series of verbal confrontations." Discuss. (See excerpt from the end of Act One below).
2. Compare and contrast the inaugural speeches of Abraham Lincoln (1865) and Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933). You may refer to such features as style, political views, and the historical context. (See excerpts from the two speeches below).
3. At the beginning of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* (1926), Nick explains that Gatsby had "an extraordinary gift for hope" and that he "turned out all right at the end." Discuss Nick's attitude to Gatsby in the novel as a whole, and explain why Nick thinks that Gatsby was worth more than "the whole damned bunch put together." (See copy of a passage from the novel below).

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

what I mean? Which was disappointing to Daddy, as you can imagine. So, here I am, struck with this flop. . . .

GEORGE [wringing around]: . . . don't go on, Martha. . . .

MARTHA: . . . this ROG in the History Department. . . .

GEORGE: . . . don't, Martha, don't. . . .

MARTHA [her voice rising to match his]: . . . who's married to the President's daughter, who's expected to be somebody, not just some nobody, some book-worm, somebody, who's so damn . . . contemptive, he can't make anything out of himself, Woolf, early in the morning.

GEORGE and HONEY [who joins him drunkenly]:
 Virginia Woolf,
 Virginia Woolf,
 Virginia Woolf . . . [etc.]

MARTHA: STOP IT!
 [A brief silence.]
 HONEY [rising, moving towards the hall]: I'm going to be sick . . . I'm going to be sick . . . I'm going to vomit.
 [Exits]
 NICK [going after her]: Oh, for God's sake!
 [Exits]
 MARTHA [going after them, looks back at GEORGE contemptuously]: Jesus! [Exits. GEORGE is alone on stage.]

CURTAIN

The Great Gatsby

When I came back from the East last autumn I felt that I wanted the world to be in uniform and at a sort of moral attention forever; I wanted no more riotous excursions with privileged glimpses into the human heart. Only Gatsby, the man who gives his name to this book, was exempt from my reaction. — Gatsby, who represented everything for which I have an unaffected scorn. If personality is an unbroken series of successful gestures, then there was something gorgeous about him, some heightened sensitivity to the promises of life, as if he were related to one of those intricate machines that register earthquakes ten thousand miles away. This responsiveness had nothing to do with that flabby impressionability which is dignified under the name of the 'creative temperament' — it was an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness such as I have never found in any other person and which it is not likely I shall ever find again. No — Gatsby turned out all right at the end; it is what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and shortwinded elations of men.

[To GEORGE, who is at the portable bar with his back to her]

You getting angry, baby? Huh? [Now back] That's the way it was supposed to be. Very simple. And Daddy seemed to think it was a pretty good idea, too. For a while. Until he watched for a couple of years! [To GEORGE again] You getting angrier? [Now back] Until he watched for a couple of years and started thinking maybe it wasn't such a good idea after all. . . . that maybe George-boy didn't have the stuff. . . . that he didn't have it in him!

GEORGE [still with his back to them all]: Stop it, Martha. MARTHA [viciously triumphant]: The hell I will! You see, George didn't have much. . . . push . . . he wasn't particularly aggressive. In fact he was sort of a. . . [Spits the word at GEORGE'S back] . . . a FLOP! A great. . . . big. . . . fat. . . . FLOP!

[CRASH! Immediately after FLOP! GEORGE breaks a bottle against the portable bar and stands there, still with his back to them all, holding the remains of the bottle by the neck. There is a silence, with everyone frozen. Then. . . .]

GEORGE [almost crying]: I said stop, Martha. MARTHA [after considering what course to take]: I hope that was an empty bottle, George. You don't want to waste good liquor. . . . not on your salary.

[GEORGE drops the broken bottle on the floor, not moving.]

Not on an Associate Professor's salary. [To NICK and HONEY] I mean, he'd be. . . . no good. . . . at trustees' dinners, fund raising. He didn't have any. . . . personality, you know

Franklin D. Roosevelt: First Inaugural Address

We are stricken by no plague of locusts. Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for. Nature still offers her bounty and human efforts have multiplied it. Plenty is at our doorstep, but a generous use of it languishes in the very sight of the supply. Primarily this is because rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence, have admitted their failure, and have abdicated. Practices of the unscrupulous money changers stand indicted in the court of public opinion, re-jected by the hearts and minds of men.

True they have tried, but their efforts have been cast in the pattern of an outworn tradition. Faced by failure of credit they have proposed only the lending of more money. Stripped of the lure of profit by which to induce our people to follow their false leadership, they have resorted to exhortations, pleading tearfully for restored confidence. They know only the rules of a generation of self-seekers. *They have no vision, and when there is no vision the people perish.*

Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war, but at the same time, through this employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources.

Hand in hand with this we must frankly recognize the overbalance of population in our industrial centers and, by engaging on a national scale in a redistribution, endeavor to provide a better use of the land for those best fitted for the land.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865¹

At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention, and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it—all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to *saving* the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to *destroy* it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union, and divide effects, by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would *make* war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would *accept* war rather than let it perish. And the war came.

One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war.