

Practice Final Exam (50 points)

Answer the two prompts below. Support the points you make with ample evidence from the selections you choose to discuss. Also, do not discuss any selection more than one time, and be sure to discuss at least one work of nonfiction.

1. Write about a technique that is especially effective in creating an impact or in getting across an idea, or that is otherwise notable in two of the works we have read in this course.
2. The English prose in our course shows that the writers take their craft seriously, and our study at the Faculty of Arts involves exploring that craft of creating art and beauty. Choose two works, one fiction and one nonfiction, and discuss what their idea of art or beauty seems to be and whether they challenge any concepts of what art or beauty is or can be. How do the works show what good prose is? What values do they give to the written form? Do they question any aesthetic idea? Do they change it? Do they create new definitions and products of art and beauty? How?

Fiction

“Five Short Stories” – Lydia Davis
“Late Returns” – Joe Hill
“Bad Dreams” – Tessa Hadley
“Snuff” – Jodi Angel
“Protozoa” – Ella Martinsen Gorham
“Audition” – Saïd Sayrafiezadeh
“Bettering Myself” – Ottessa Moshfegh
“Admiral” – T. C. Boyle
“Heads of the Colored People” – Nafissa Thompson-Spires
“Omakase” – Weike Wang
“The Manga Artist” – Doug Henderson
“Pity and Shame” – Ursula K. Le Guin

Non-fiction

“The Man at the River” – Dave Eggers
“Who’s Your Daddy?” – Joe Hill
“In the Shadow of a Fairy Tale” – Leslie Jamison
“What My Mother and I Don’t Talk About” – Michele Filgate
“I Won’t Be Marginalized by Online Harassment” – Kelly Marie Tran
“I Invented the Term ‘Sadfishing’” – Rebecca Reid
“Walkabout” – Jeffrey Eugenides
“Bettering Myself” – Ottessa Moshfegh
“The Future Has an Ancient Heart” – Sugar
“Positive Obsession” – Octavia Butler
“Dry January” – Scaachi Koul
“Lola’s Story” – Alex Tizon
“I Am a Big Black Man Who Will Never Own a Gun Because I Know I Would Use It” – Kiese Laymon
“The Impact of Microaggressions and Why They Matter” – Simba Runyowa
“Cross-Cultural Marriage Is No Picnic” – Pathik Pathak
“Full House” – David Sedaris
“In Defense of Graphic Novels and Those Who Read Them” – Liesl Shurtliff