Department of English

PhD Field Examination

Discourse and Text Analysis

Subcategories: *Varieties of Discourse and Narrative Studies*

Fall 2007

INSTRUCTIONS

This examination consists of two parts:

Part A: Answer Question 1 (50%) <u>and</u> Question 2 (20%).

Part B: Answer <u>one of the five</u> questions (30%).

Read the entire examination before beginning. As you select your questions, consider what texts you will select for analysis, how you will fulfill the requirements for coverage of core and subcategory lists, and how much time you will allot to each question.

The examination is four hours long.

Part A: Answer Question 1 (50%) and Question 2 (20%)

Question 1 (50%)
Develop a close analysis of Text 1, Text 2, Text 3, Text 4, or Text 5. Be sure to identify the sources of your theoretical framework. Your answer must draw from theorists on the Core List and your two Subcategory Lists

Question 2 (20%)
Answer one of the four questions below with reference to one of the texts not analyzed in Question 1. Your answer must draw on the work of at least one theorist not referred to in Question 1.

1. Using concepts you think appropriate, analyze and discuss the construction of subject position(s) in the text.
2. Michael J. Toolan suggests that narratives can be forms of political action. Discuss with reference to your selected text.
3. Dialogism refers to how texts "orchestrate" their material by deploying a variety of styles, registers or social genres of speech. Discuss how your selected text mobilizes different forms of language and speech to achieve its intended effect.
4. Describe the fundamental narrative structure of your selected text, using an appropriate range of theory.

Part B: Answer one of the five questions below (30%).
In your answer you must discuss the work of at three least theorists from at least two of your three categories (i.e. Core and your two Subcategories). One of these theorists, but only one, may be someone whose work you have discussed in Part A.

1. Discuss the vagaries of authorial agency, including its pit-falls and potentials as a concept useful to discourse analysis.
2. Discuss the concept of intertextuality and its value (or not) for discourse analysis.
3. What role should the concept of ideology play in discourse analysis?
4. What has been the effect of either feminism or postcolonial theory on the discipline of discourse analysis?
5. What is the relation between narrative and the self?