Department of English

PhD Field Examination

Discourse And Text Analysis

Subcategories: *Narrative Studies* **and** *Discourse Analysis*

Fall 2005

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 four</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:

Develop a close analysis of Text 1, Text 2, or Text 3. Be sure to identify the sources of your theoretical framework. Your answer must draw from the Core List and your two Subcategories lists.

Question 2:

Answer one of the four questions below with reference to one of the texts not analyzed in Question 1.

1. Define and discuss two of the following terms in one of the texts:

   a. Transitivity
   b. Speech function
   c. Cohesion
   d. Tenor of discourse
   e. Genre
   f. Theme/theme

2. Discuss the structures and functions of discourse elements construing what is often called the 'Orientational' function in one of the texts.

3. Show in detail how the concepts represented by one of the following groups of terms contributes to the distinctive effect(s) in one of the texts:

   i. real author, implied author, implied reader, real reader
   ii. enchained and embedded episodes
   iii. flashback (analepsis), flashforward (prolepsis)
   iv. subject, object, helper, sender, beneficiary

4. Show how narrative point of view reproduces (or disrupts) social categories in one of the texts

Part B: Answer one of the four questions below (30%).

In your answer, you must discuss writers from at least two of your three categories (i.e., Core and your two subcategories).

a. *Function* plays an important role in most theories of discourse analysis. Discuss the role of function in discourse analysis.

b. Discourse analysis is an *applied* endeavour. Discuss some *applications* of discourse analysis.

c. Discuss what theoretical issues would need to be addressed in order to bring narrative studies and discourse analysis into a unified methodological framework.

d. What can discourse analysis and/or narrative studies contribute to the questions and problems raised by either postcolonial or feminist theory?