**Making Exams (Midterms, Finals, etc.)**

**Things to Consider:**

* **Objectives** – what do you want the student to demonstrate?
  + Related to course objectives, specific objectives you’ve focused on
  + What you’ve practiced in class – how does the exam connect to skills you’ve practiced in class?
* **Content vs. skills**
  + Is there content you want to test them on (i.e. concepts, identifying terms, definitions, recalling information about author)
  + Are there skills you want to test them on (i.e. close reading, applying terms, composing paragraphs, tracing a motif, etc. etc.)
* **Length v. time**
  + Consider time for the exam – for midterms, how long is your class? 50 minutes or 1 hr 15? For final exam week, exam periods are 2 hrs each.
* **Form of exam** 
  + Consider having a few different types of questions to respond to different learning/test taking types
* **Open book vs. closed book vs. open note**
  + Open book allows them to pull text evidence. Open notes rewards those who have taken extensive notes, etc. Closed book/closed note allows you to see what they have retained, but does not allow for specific text evidence

**Review and Prep**

* **Exam info or review sheet**
  + This can be a simple document where you let them know the format of the exam and what to expect – you do not have to tell them what will be on the exam, but the types of questions to expect and how much of the course content is “game” for the exam.
  + Do not feel like you have to give them a review sheet which tells them the exact content of the exam (sometimes they have these for other courses and expect it)
* **Practice skills needed on the exam**
  + In general, you should not ask them to perform a skill on the exam that they’ve never done before. (For example, don’t ask them to write a “power paragraph” if you’ve never explained that before). If I am going to have quote identification on the exam, I’ll spend a bit of time explaining what that is and we’ll practice one or two in class before the exam and discuss skills needed to successfully answer them.

**Some Options:**

* **Essay test** (have them write 1 or 2 short essays – give them a choice of prompts and tell them they must reference a certain number of texts they’ve read)
* **Short answer/paragraph test** (give them a certain number of short answer questions and they write a paragraph for each)
* **Close reading a passage (**Provide a passage printed out. Have them read the passage and answer questions based on it)
* **Term identification (**Provide important terms and have them define them and/or use an example from the literature you have read)
* **Quote identification** (Provide important quotes from texts you have read. Have them identify them and write about their significance**)**
* **Multiple Choice** (Ask objective questions about author background, literary terms, writing techniques, quotes from the text, etc.)
* **ANY COMBINATION of the above!**
* **Other ideas: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**