

National Taiwan University
Graduate Institute of Foreign Languages and Literatures
2018 PhD Program Admissions Examination
Subject: American Literature (40%)

The identity formation of the “American Self” is related to the possibility of representation grounded in the referentiality that concerns both the constructions of the self (from the mainstream Americanization) and of the other (from minority groups of various ethnic and cultural roots). The discourses of the re-conceptualization of the American Self enables the critique of ethnocentrism and a shift of focus onto the marginalized. Write an essay to discuss the identity formation of the American Self in the literary history that includes the representations of the self/other pair. Supplement your argument with at least two literary texts from different periods.