

MOCK MIDTERM ENGLISH 150F

CHOOSE ONE

- 1.) Philip Roth has commented that the contemporary American writer “has his hands full in trying to understand, describe, and then make *credible* much of American reality.” Explain the pertinence of this remark in terms of two of the novels we have read this semester.
- 2.) Existential philosophy is based on the idea of that *existence precedes essence*. Explain what you understand this comment to mean and then apply its significance to two of the novels we have discussed thus far.
- 3.) Many of the novels we have discussed refer either to other writers, other works of literature, or aspects of world mythology. Analyze two novels we have read in terms of their extraliterary references. How do these references inform the works and why have these references been included?

N.B.

Remember that your job is to analyze the material you select. Extensive plot summary is unnecessary; if necessary, summarize selectively and with a clear purpose. Be sure your paper is also clearly focused and specifically developed (quote from the text or paraphrase accurately and carefully).