

Ex/ENG/PG/H24/2023

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2023
First Year Second Semester
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Death in Western Civilisation

Time: Two hours

Full marks: 30

Answer *any three* questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. With reference to the works of Socrates and Lucretius, critically examine the role of philosophy as therapy for the fear of death.
2. Compare the ways in which corpses are depicted in the cultural texts of the Homeric world with those of medieval/early modern Europe (with reference to texts discussed in class).
3. With reference to Celan and Levi, discuss the effect of the Holocaust on the possibilities of language.
4. Can we compare Dr. Rieux to Kierkegaard's 'knight of infinite resignation'? Give reasons for your answer. Can you identify one other protagonist/narrator from the texts discussed in class who merits this comparison?
5. In what ways does Keats's nightingale foreshadow the creatures who glimpse 'the open' in the Rilke's Eighth Duino Elegy? Critically compare the two poems along these lines.
6. "The undead in *Dracula* is a parody of resurrection theology"—Discuss.
7. "This baroque idea glimmers behind *Biathanatos*. The idea of a god who creates the universe in order to create his own gallows."—Borges. Discuss with reference to Donne's *Biathanatos* (and, if you wish, any other work by him).