

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

2005-2006

FREN4106 THE DESIRE FOR COMMUNITY : LITERATURE AS ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE 18TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

Write TWO essays, ONE from each Section.

You may answer in English or in French, but no special credit will be given for writing in French rather than in English.

Please note that AT LEAST ONE option paper MUST be written in English.

DO NOT BASE BOTH ESSAYS IN THIS COURSE, OR AN ANSWER IN THIS COURSE AND ONE IN ANOTHER OPTION, ON THE SAME TEXT OR ON SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MATERIAL.

You must refer to paragraphs 1 to 8 of the French Department's 'BA courses: Assessed Essays Booklet' for further information on the length of essays, how they are assessed, submission procedures and penalties for late submission, as well as for essay writing guidelines. Your attention is also drawn to the statement on 'Plagiarism and Non-originality' in that booklet and in the French Department Student Handbook.

Titles may be selected only from the following list: rewording of titles is not permitted.

SECTION A

1. Discuss the tension between anthropological hope and historical pessimism in Rousseau's *Discours sur l'inégalité*.
2. Diderot's *Entretien d'un père avec ses enfants* constructs an imaginary space between private morality and the public sphere of the law and calls it 'la république'. What do you understand by this figure?
3. Explain Mauss's notion of the 'fait social total' and discuss the importance that it acquires in Lévi-Strauss's *Introduction à l'oeuvre de Marcel Mauss*.

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4. 'Leiris's *Cinq études d'ethnologie* exposes the bad faith of any ethnographic study which claims to ignore the realities of global politics in the name of scientific impartiality.' Discuss.
5. Discuss the significance attached to the figure of self-abasement in Leiris's *L'Age d'homme*.
6. 'In Duras's *L'Amant*, the effects of social exclusion oscillate between positive and negative.' Discuss.
7. 'In the concluding pages of Duras's *La Pluie d'été*, the motifs of incest and death can be seen to converge, with important consequences for understanding the meaning of the work.' Discuss.

SECTION B

8. 'On peut en effet considérer que l'ethnologie n'a pu naître comme science qu'au moment où un décentrement a pu être opéré: au moment où la culture européenne [...] a été chassée de son lieu, devant alors cesser de se considérer comme culture de référence.' Discuss the relevance of this statement to TWO or MORE of the works you have studied in this option.
9. 'Anthropological literature may offer the best means for dealing with the impossibility of defining the human.' Discuss with reference to TWO or MORE of the works you have studied in this option.
10. Discuss the representation of the family in TWO or MORE of the works studied in this option.
11. Discuss how the idea of 'la communauté négative, la communauté de ceux qui n'ont pas de communauté' is represented in TWO or MORE of the works you have studied in this option.
12. In what ways can Leiris's *L'Age d'homme* AND Duras's *L'Amant* AND/OR *La Pluie d'été* be considered anthropological writings?
13. Discuss the significance of cross-cultural interaction in TWO or MORE of the works studied in this option.
14. 'La communauté est ce que désire la diversité.' Discuss, in the light of this reflection, TWO or MORE of the works studied in this option.

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