

21L471 Major English Novels
Take-home exam on Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
Due Thurs. 4/15, in class

Everyone should answer question 1, then choose **either** 2 or 3.

1. Examine the scene in Ch. 4 in which we first see Lucie Manette (esp. pp. 22-23). How does Dickens stage his presentation of this character, and what do his choices in this matter suggest about the role she is destined to play in the novel? Against what kind of forces is she defined by opposition in this scene and throughout the novel? Make sure to give detailed analysis of the figures on the “gaunt pier-glass” behind Lucie when we first see her.
2. Write about the novel’s opposition of remembering and resenting versus forgetting and forgiving. Which of these can set us free from the wrongs of the past? Refer in your answer to such elements as Mme. Defarge’s knitting, Dr. Manette’s long-lost document, the illegible record left behind by a prisoner in the Tower of London, etc.
3. Write about the novel’s fascination with and horror of the urban mob. According to Dickens, what happens to people when they become parts of a mob? How does this ironically mimic what happened to the enemies of the Revolution? Refer to several examples from the text to support your claims.

Guidelines:

1. responses must be typed and double-spaced throughout, using a 12-point font. (Times New Roman is good). Pages should be numbered and stapled together.
2. Append a title page to your exam that includes your name, the date, and a **signed pledge** reading “This exam represents my own work and does not rely on outside sources, except where noted.”
3. You should not need to consult any outside sources to write these responses. If you do, you must cite all such sources, including websites, on a Works Cited list at the end of your exam.
4. Brevity is not a virtue. Thicken your responses with detailed reference to the text. When you cite the text, refer not only to page number but also to Volume and chapter numbers. For example: (p. 311; Vol. III, ch. 2).
5. Please contact me if you have any questions. If you need an extension for any reason, please ask as soon as possible.