

## Midterm Examination Review Sheet

*The midterm exam will be 50 minutes long, and it will be worth 100 points. Please bring a blank blue book or blank loose-leaf paper for your answers. You may not use your books or your notes. You will write two essay responses to questions listed below. There will be some, limited choice among these questions on the examination.*

1. Define one of the following terms: *melodrama*, *sentimentalism*, *realism*, or *naturalism*. Illustrate your definition with examples from one of the following works of American fiction: Howells's *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, Rowson's *Charlotte Temple*, Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, or Wright's *Uncle Tom's Children*.
2. Write a short essay that discusses the sentimental appeals found in Howells's *The Rise of Silas Lapham* and in Wright's *Uncle Tom's Children*. In what ways, if any, do these anti-sentimental texts incorporate elements or features of sentimentalism?
3. Write an essay that compares the commonplace realism of William Dean Howells to the naturalism of Richard Wright. What are the key differences that separate these two writers in their approach to realism?
4. Does Stowe's use of emotion differ from Wright's? Write an essay that explains how each author appeals to emotion. You may highlight differences, similarities, or both, but please pay attention to both their styles and their purposes.
5. Write an essay that compares the determinism or the role of fate in *Charlotte Temple* and *Uncle Tom's Children*. To what extent can the characters in these fictions control their own destinies? What seems to be the author's purpose or purposes in emphasize such a role for fate or such determinism?
6. Howells's *The Rise of Silas Lapham* and Rowson's *Charlotte Temple* are both basically domestic novels that devote significant attention to the fate of the families' young adult daughters. Do the similarities end there? Write an essay that compares these two domestic novels and explains how and why they seem so very different from each other.