*Of Mice and Men*, Final Exam

**Part A.** The Tough Stuff – there’s not just one right answer. **75 pts.**

STATE, SUPPORT, and JUSTIFY your THESIS with QUOTATIONS and CITATIONS. DEMONSTRATE your ANALYTICAL ABILITY by being THOUGHTFUL. Each answer should reflect DEPTH OF THINKING and should be THOROUGH. **Address FOUR questions**. Use CORRECT MLA STYLE. Answers should be between 300-500 words each. You will be graded on content, creativity, thoroughness, and GRAMMAR. **\*\*Period 4: Answer TWO.**

1. *Of Mice and Men* feels like an **allegory**, with each character possessing a specific trait that represents something or some group in society. For example, Slim represents the boss you hope to have or be: fair, consistent, honest, and straightforward. What type or group of people do George, Lennie, Curley, Curley’s Wife, Crooks, Carlson, and Candy, represent? How so?

 2. The **setting** here is very specific. Do the events of the story only apply to this particular place and time, or can the novel be thought of as universally applying to humans everywhere?

3. Does any character escape one **theme**: prejudice? Is any character not prejudiced against? Given everyone's interaction with each other, how does prejudice actually operate in the novel?

4. Does George have the right to kill Lennie? Legally, he does not; what about **ethically/morally**? How does Steinbeck's treatment of Lennie's murder affect the way the reader interprets the event? What does George's action suggest about justice—within the story and in the world as a whole?

5. What is “mercy killing”? How about “vigilante justice”? **Develop an opinion o**n each practice, and give reasons for your thesis. Be sure to answer and explain when/if either could be justified.

6. Discuss alternatives George had to shooting Lennie. What would be the **consequences** of these possible other alternatives? In the end, was killing Lennie something George had no choice but to do?

7. What is Steinbeck saying about hope? Is the book's take-home message (**theme**) inherently a pessimistic or optimistic one? How does hope exist or not exist in the book?

**Part B**. Project – Choose one. **25 pts.**

A. Create a MODEL of a) the bunkhouse, b) the barn, or c) the campsite. Include as many details as possible. Be creative and thoughtful.

B. With no more than three in a group, perform a SKIT of a memorable scene. Include PROPS. Each actor must speak a minimum of ten times, and must MEMORIZE his/her lines. Your group must submit a correctly formatted and written SCRIPT.

C. DRAW a series of FIVE of your favorite scenes. Each sketch or painting must be 8” x 11” minimum, color, and artistically representative of the scene.

D. REWRITE the ending of the book. Write in the dialect of the book, include dialogue, and begin where Lennie has just killed Curley’s Wife and leaves the barn.

E. Produce a POWERPOINT on the lives of Dust Bowl families. Include a minimum of fifteen slides, with correctly written captions.