

Final Exam

English W131-45

Instructor: Ryan P. Shepherd

Directions: Answer all three questions fully. Each response should include an introduction summing up your main points, several body paragraphs relying on evidence from the text and your own interpretations of the text, and a conclusion restating the points that you have made. (100 points total)

1. In Ken Kalfus's "Pu-239," Timofey refers to plutonium as being something "like in a fairy tale" (18). What other elements of Ken Kalfus's Russian fantasy are like a fairy tale? Give at least four major elements that make this story like a fairy tale and support each element with evidence from the text. (30 points)

2. With careful reading, Junot Diaz's "How to Date a Browngirl, Blackgirl, Whitegirl, or Halfie" appears to be less about dating and more about other insecurities in Yunior's life. Discuss a minimum of three things about which Yunior is insecure, giving evidence from the text to support all points you make. (30 points)

3. In both "Pu-239" and "How to Date..." the main character is looking for fulfillment through something that they do not understand. In what ways are the searches for fulfillment of Yunior and Timofey similar? In what ways are the searches different? Explore these searches, focusing on at least two main similarities and two main differences. Support all points that you make with evidence from the text. (40 points)