

MA North American Studies: Culture and Literature

Application Period: February 3, 2022 – July 15, 2022 (for the winter term 2022/23)

In the interest of learning more about your intellectual aspirations, the North American Studies Admissions Committee asks that you write a response to **one of the following questions**.

Please write a concise, sharply focused, well-crafted essay of 1000—1500 words.
(Note: This essay serves as your writing sample.)

Question A: Cultural Studies

Describe and discuss the role of religion in American political culture.

Question B: Literary Studies

Analyze and interpret the following text by Daisy Fried, which was published in *The Paris Review* 237 (Summer 2021), p. 124.

I Have Not Forgotten

after Baudelaire's "Je n'ai pas oublié"

i.m. Jim Quinn, 1935-2020

I have not forgotten, neighbor,
our red brick rowhouse, tiny and quiet
with the window always cracked open
even in winter, and us rolling together
into the middle of the dented mattress,
a rooster in someone's courtyard crowing
in the gray, lording it over his harem
of illegal chickens; where like gods
we couldn't stop being naked;
those evenings the sun, superbly streaming,
broke its sheaf of colors on the glass,
seemed a giant inquisitive eye
watching our long quiet suppers,
its reflections spritzing like candlelight
on the frugal tablecloth
and on the strewn pages of your manuscripts.

