

Study Questions for *Last of the Mohicans* (1992)

Prof. Bishop

Please read over the following questions prior to watching the film. After watching the film, answer them. These questions will help you formulate ideas for your essay.

1. Who directed the film?
2. Who are the major performers in the film?
3. Who is the protagonist of the film?
4. Who (or what) is the antagonist in the film?
5. What are the main characters' names?
6. Who are some of the important secondary characters?
7. What is the basic plot of the text?
8. What characteristics of Romanticism does the film seem to embody?
9. In what ways is Natty more attuned to nature than other (especially white/British) characters? (It should be noted that Cooper mentions, explicitly, that Natty is not of "cross blood"—that he is purely white. Mann, perhaps, seems to suggest otherwise with his costuming and makeup of Daniel Day-Lewis.)
10. In what ways is he more emotional?
11. In what ways is he more revolutionary? Does this signal a shift in the attitudes of colonialists? (Remember, the film is focused on the 1754 French-Indian wars)
12. In what ways is the film, especially Natty, focused on the solitary or the notion of isolation? Think about the title, how Uncas is the last of his kind. Think about how Natty represents a shift into a more isolated world—breaking off from England and the other cultural shifts that are occurring.
13. How is the plot of the film (or its characters and setting) fantastic or exotic? What specific instances in the film seem to highlight this notion?
14. In what ways might the film be focused on the notion of the subjective? How does it focus on the desires and needs of one (or two) characters in a specific way?
15. How is the film specifically idealistic in terms of its philosophy?
16. How is Natty a "proto-American"—that is, the first of his kind, the first "real" American?