

Making of the Contemporary World

Fall 2021

Final Exam Format

Directions: Read all the directions carefully. Please do not leave the room during the exam. Write all answers in your green book with a clear label indicating the question number. Please write legibly (preferably in pen). When you are finished, put your exam in the green book and turn it in. I will post exam grades to Moodle when I'm through grading. Good luck!

Part I—Very Short Answer (about 20 mins., 15 questions, 20% of grade)

In a word or a phrase, answer the following questions as directed.

For example. What historical concept reminds us that “every historical outcome depends upon a complicated web of prior conditions”? [Contingency]

A—Understanding History (answer **three** of six)

B—Regional Perspectives (answer **six** of nine)

C—Thematic Perspectives (answer **six** of nine)

Part II—Short Answer (about 40 mins., 5 questions, 30% of grade)

In a short paragraph of a few sentences, answer the following questions as directed.

For example: Why is Africa's place in history contentious? (You would answer with a discussion of Eurocentric history... Afrocentric history... Recent scholarship...)

A—Understanding History (answer **one** of two)

B—Regional Perspectives (answer **two** of four)

C—Thematic Perspectives (answer **two** of four)

Part III—Long Essay (about 60 mins., one question with choice of two, 50% of grade)

Write an essay of about five paragraphs to answer one of the following questions. Give concrete details from textbook, lectures, readings, and/or discussion. In your answer, provide examples from at least two states or regions. Do not repeat at length the examples you've discussed earlier in the exam. Also, do not write at length about your final paper topic.

For example: How can we understand the present in light of the past? (A strong answer would introduce the topic and set out the central point of your answer... perhaps drawing on a quotation from Karl Marx or William Faulkner... perhaps underlining the powerful impact of the past on the present... then you would precede to present three paragraphs that present key examples that illuminate your central point... say, a paragraph on legacies in regional history, such as imperialism in Latin America (Berryman, land ownership, Galleano)... say, a paragraph on legacies in thematic history, such as the environmental history of industrial societies (Roche on rats/sharks, Yawata), ... say, a paragraph on shifting patterns of geopolitics, from the multipolar world of 1900 to the Cold War to the multipolar world of today (Brower & Sanders, nation state, Shaya on multipolar world)... and you would end with a strong paragraph of conclusion – not a summary, but a conclusion that applies these examples back to the central point of your essay.)