United States Ph.D. Written Qualifying Examination
Fall 2015

This exam is designed to take eight hours to complete and consists of three parts. Answer ONE question from each part (three questions in all). You may not use any notes, books, articles or other reference materials during the eight-hour period.

Remember

- Make sure that all pages are numbered and that your assigned identification number appears on each page
- Please include a cover page that indicates which questions you are answering
- You are expected to demonstrate that you have a familiarity with a range of topics and periods. It is important that you keep this in mind as you select your questions and formulate your answers.
- Aim to be concrete and specific rather than comprehensive in your responses.
- Return your completed exam to the History Graduate Office by 5:00 pm in PDF form

As the Code of Conduct points out:
(http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/)

With its status as a world-class research institution, it is critical that the University uphold the highest standards of integrity both inside and outside the classroom. As a student and member of the UCLA community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors. Accordingly, when accusations of academic dishonesty occur, The Office of the Dean of Students is charged with investigating and adjudicating suspected violations. Academic dishonesty, includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions or facilitating academic misconduct.

PART I: Broad interpretive synthesis of three centuries.

Answer ONE out of the following two questions. Time: approximately four hours. Worth: 50%.

A. “Empire” has become a major, overarching term in contemporary US history writing. What are the advantages and disadvantages of linking settler colonialism, formal empire, and global superpower status into an historical continuum to describe the place of the US [and its pre national antecedents] in the world over the long span of its history

B. Contemporary capitalism is as different from industrial capitalism as industrial capitalism was to the merchant and slave capitalism of the 17th and 18th century.” Identify the nature of these differences and how they mattered to the outcomes across
each of the centuries. To what extent do you think a focus on these differences illuminates or obfuscates the complex processes of three-centuries of change in American history?

**PART II: Topics.**

Answer ONE out of the following three questions. Time: approximately two hours. Worth: 25%.

a. US history, more than most national histories, places a particular emphasis on what are called “reform” movements. Using one example from each of the three periods, discuss social movements for change and discuss whether reform, revolution (or radicalism) is a more appropriate designation.

b. At moments of political, social, and economic crisis the question of gender frequently emerges as a focus of debates over the future of American Society. Drawing on material from three separate centuries, discuss the ways that gender has been used to highlight conflicts and arguments about American society and analyze why gender is such an important recurring site for disagreement.

c. Analyze and account for changes in the historiography of liberalism before and after 1970, making sure to identify the scholars most responsible for asking new questions, offering innovative syntheses, and/or discovering and utilizing new sources.

**PART III: Historiography.**

Answer ONE out of the following three questions. Be sure to engage at least eight texts in your essay. Time: approximately two hours. Worth: 25%.

a. Two of the most important historiographical developments in recent early American history have been Atlantic and Continental histories. Analyze these two developments to make clear what sorts of insights they bring to our understanding of early America and what their limitations are. Why has it been so difficult to do both simultaneously?

b. Considering the full range of historians’ approaches through the twentieth century and into the present, what are the major epochs of and shifts between analyses of slavery, the Civil War and emancipation. This question asks for an analytic periodization of historiography.

c. Analyze and account for major changes in the historiography of the Cold War, making sure to identify the periods and the scholars most responsible for asking new questions, offering innovative synthesis, and/or discovering and utilizing new sources.