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

PART I: Broad interpretive synthesis of three centuries.

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

1. Over four centuries America has consistently engaged with and in empire. How has empire and related processes such as colonialism shaped the United States and its antecedents?
2. The creation and transformation of American capitalism has fundamentally affected the history of the United States from its colonial origins until the present. What are the defining features of and major transformations in the history?

PART II: Topics.

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

1. Has the United States become an increasingly democratic state from the Revolution to the present? Be sure to include specific examples across the nation’s history to support your argument.
2. Why was the phrase “Manifest Destiny” coined and how did the concept shape 19th and 20th century United States history?

3. The idea that the United States was founded as a “nation of immigrants” is an anachronism. The “immigrant” is a modern category produced by systems of exclusion/inclusion, surveillance, human classification, policing, and national identity. Write a history of how the immigrant comes into being in the United States, and how these “systems” transformed immigrant status, condition, and identity from the 19th century to the present.

**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%.

1. In what ways has the category of “sexuality” been employed to re-write the history of the United States? Critically discuss works that have used sexuality as the primary optic to rethink established sites of historical inquiry.

2. How have historians explained the transformation(s) of the American state? Using examples from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, critically examine at least 8-10 authors.

3. How have the shifting structures of unfree labor influenced American history and historiography?