This exam is composed of three parts. It is a closed book, closed note exam. Each of your essays will be graded on how informed and organized it is. Please label your exam not with your name but with the number you were assigned. Label each response with the part and number of the question you elected to answer.

Part I, History Synthesis (50 points), cover AT LEAST THREE CENTURIES.

1. The American engagement in empire from the colonial times to the 20th century has taken some dramatic shifts. How would you characterize that history over its centuries-long history?

2. The boundary line between one drainage area and others is called a watershed. Analogously, students of American history have used the term to mark divisions between important stages of America's development. Select one major historical watershed in four different centuries and explain the reasons for your choices.

3. How has the American experience since the colonial period been shaped by the relationship between capitalism, democracy, and race?

Part II, Specific (25%)

1. Slavery, although a global institution with an extended history, developed in British America with particular features. Discuss the origins and history of slavery as an institution and how it shaped the United States.

2. Did the development of the United States during the nineteenth century look more like Thomas Jefferson’s vision for the nation or Alexander Hamilton’s? Assess from the perspective of 1850 and 1900, paying particular attention to issues of territorial expansion, economic transformation, and political democratization.

3. Which had a more significant impact on the American state and why: the Progressive Era (1900-1925), the New Deal (1933-39) or World War II (1941-45)? Whichever period you choose, be sure to support your argument in reference to developments from the 1890s to the present.

Part III, Historiography (25%)

1. Early American historians differ over how to understand both the causes and effects of the American Revolution, and their differences arguably stand (at least in part) on how the Revolution is defined. Reviewing the debates around that signal event, do you see definition as the key issue, or does the analysis pivot on some other issue or issues?

2. How have scholars revised their understandings of frontiers and borderlands and how have those changes altered our framings of American history?
3. Over the past 30 years, historians of immigrant workers in the U.S. have complicated the old story of immigrant Americanization in a number of ways. Nevertheless, the relationship between migrants and the nation (legally, economically, and symbolically) remains a central theme of immigration history and American history more generally. Reviewing some of the most important studies on immigrant communities in the U.S., what do you see as the most important lessons for U.S. history broadly defined? What questions remain unresolved?