EUROPE, 1550-1800

Please answer any TWO (2) questions. You are allowed a total of four hours to complete this exam (two hours per question.) You are on your honor not to consult any materials, including notes or papers or anything stored in your computer. You are also on your honor not to discuss the exam or its content with any faculty or student until the exam period is over.

1. Discuss the Thirty Years War as a European event.

2. Court society/military revolution: how did each contribute to the construction of the early modern state?

3. Discuss the Enlightenment critique of the Baroque.

4. What were the central issues in political thought during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries?

5. Examine the political culture of theater during the long seventeenth century.

6. Why did absolutism fail in England and yet triumph throughout the rest of Europe? Please explain why England created limited monarchy while the rest of Europe embraced strong monarchic rule.

7. The period 1550-1800 was characterized by the rise of national monarchies and the decline of empires. How, when and why did empires fail and monarchies replace them?

8. How did the science of wonder (to quote Lorraine Daston) differ from the scientific revolution of Descartes & Newton? Were there also similarities?

9. Did the years 1550 to 1800 see a reinforcement of patriarchy or its gradual deterioration?

10. By 1800, western Europe was poised to undertake sustained economic growth. What developments in politics, social organization or intellectual life made real economic growth possible?