Please answer one question from Part I and one question from Part II. 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.

PART I:

1. One of the most important historiographical debates about early modern Spain has always been the question of whether Spain was in "decline" or not by the early seventeenth century. What were the salient characteristics of the alleged decline, and the nature of contemporary perception of this issue? Provide some historical context and discuss the historiographical intervention on the topic.

2. The history of the Mediterranean in the age of Philip II has long been seen through the lenses of Braudel's epic study of the region and the period. How has Braudel being revised in the last decade and a half? What have been the main points of departure from the Braudelian paradigm?

3. In 1640, Spain almost disintegrated under the actual secession of Catalonia and Portugal (albeit that of the former was only temporary) and revolts throughout the lands of the Spanish monarchy. What led to these political conflicts and how did Spain emerge from them?

4. A great deal of the power of kings and princes was articulated through festive events, ceremonial entries, Corpus Christi processions and the like. Please comment in general on the nature of festive traditions in the peninsula and their role in the social, cultural, and political life of Spaniards, and in particular how some of these festive events worked in the Spanish imperial lands (that may include Italy, the Low Countries, etc.)

5. The Iberian peninsula was, even during the period of Castilian ascendancy from the late Middle Ages onwards, a multilingual society. What were the relationship between the different "Iberian" languages and dialects and how did they work in terms of the peninsula's cultural history and output?

6. In what ways did sixteenth century Spain constitute a cultural "golden age"? What years would you use as marking the beginnings and end of Spain's 'Golden Age (el siglo de oro)" and why? In what ways is this term accurate or not? Please do mention the most notable literary and artistic landmarks and its relation to the general culture.
7. What were the important themes of Charles V's reign? What were its successes? What were its failures? In detail discuss two of the following:

1) The Comunidades and Germanias
2) The Imperial project
3) The Reformation and the Empire
4) The Organization of the Empire
5) The State in Castile
6) Diplomacy and War: France, the Low Countries, the Ottoman Threat
7) The Price Revolution: American Silver and Castilian Peasants
8) Humanism in the Court of Charles V. The Influence of Erasmus

Make references to the sources.

8. What were the important themes of Philip II's reign? What were its successes? What were its failures? In detail discuss two of the following:

1. The Defeat of the Spanish Armada
2. The Alpujarras uprising of 1568
3. The Antonio Perez Affair
4. The Administration of the Empire
5. Foreign Affairs
6. The New World

Make references to the sources.

PART II:

1. It has been claimed by some that the “generation of ‘98” produced a cultural and intellectual renaissance in early twentieth-century Spain. Who were the primary protagonists of the writers of the generation of ‘98? What were their major themes? In what sense can they be said to represent a “generation”? To which cultural and intellectual movements in Europe can the generation of ’98 be linked? What was the legacy of the generation of ’98 in Spain?

2. Historians have sometimes had difficulty integrating the Spanish Civil War into their accounts of early twentieth-century Europe. Other historians, like Gerald Brennan in The Spanish Labyrinth, have insisted on the unique nature of the Spanish Civil War and have resisted attempts reduce what happened in Spain between 1936 and 1939 to an example of larger European developments. Under which circumstances did the Spanish Civil War begin? What were the major political and social forces that contested the war and how did the balance of forces shift in Spain between 1936 and 1939? To what extent was the outcome of the war decided by developments outside Spain? What was the legacy of the war to Spanish history after 1939?

3. Scholars of Modern Europe have identified generational groupings as sites for historical analysis. How or does this approach illuminate the case of Modern Spain? Explore at least one case of generational clusters at the convergence of Spanish political, social, and cultural history after 1850.
4. One regnant paradigm of European History is the nation-state, and the changing links between nationalism, liberalism, and conservatism in the modern period. Explore some of the key moments in the history of Spanish nationalism and politics after 1830. How do tensions between unification and regionalism erupt or diminish in the political and social arenas of Modern Spain? How consequential are these tensions, and who are their cultural carriers?