FRANCE SINCE CA. 1450

Answer one question in each section. You have a total of four hours. You are on your honor not to consult any other materials, including notes or papers stored on your computer. Please return your completed exam to the graduate office by 5:00 pm today. Good Luck.

Part I: Answer one question

1. In mid-sixteenth century, it seemed that France would become Protestant. But by 1700, France was overwhelmingly Catholic. How did this occur and why?

2. How absolute was French absolutism?

3. France was (in many ways) the core of Elias’ “civilizing process.” Where and how did this process occur?

4. How was the oppositional, public sphere created in France?

5. Who “won” the French Revolution? Who lost?

Part II. Answer one question

1. How might one explain the marked political instability that characterized French politics during the nineteenth century?

2. In what ways can one consider the city of Paris to be, in Walter Benjamin’s turn of phrase, “capital of the nineteenth century”?

3. Why was the process of decolonization so protracted in Algeria and how would you characterize this war?

4. To what extent did the peasantry of France consider themselves to be “Frenchmen” by 1900, and how did they become integrated into a larger national culture?

5. What impact has Vichy regime had on French politics in the post World War II era?