GERMANY SINCE CA 1450 TO THE PRESENT

Answer one question from each section. You are allowed four hours to complete this examination (two hours per question). You are on your honor not to consult any materials, including notes or papers stored on your computer. If you are taking the modern European part of the exam, be sure to choose questions in the two exams that emphasize your breadth of knowledge.

Section I: Answer one question

1) What role did Renaissance humanism play in the German Reformation?

2) In what way did the Reformation play a role in state building in Germany?

3) What were the main forces for stability and change in rural and town life in Early Modern Germany?

4) Discuss the culture of warfare in Germany in the Early Modern Period.

5) Discuss the political solution of the Peace of Westphalia and its long-term consequences.

6) The Enlightenment is often understood as a period of rationalism. How far is this true for the both German and Jewish Aufklärung?

7) What was the effect of Napoleon on Germany?

8) Emancipation: how were the forces of liberalization of society and culture prepared in the eighteenth century and played out in the Vormärz for Jews, women, and peasants?

Section II: Answer one question

1. Discuss the significance of the German Socialists (SPD) between the Erfurt Program in 1891 and 1933.

2. What are the failures and successes of the Weimar Republic?

3. "Germany modernized without experiencing a successful social or political revolution." This conventional view has been challenged by historians. What are the issues and arguments?

4. What is the state of the debate on German “war aims” in World War I? What are the main issues? What are the main contributors?

5. Can Goldhagen’s “Germany’s Willing Executioners” be considered a chapter in the debate on the German Sonderweg? A chapter in the Historikerstreit? Why or why not?

6. What was the effect of Bismarck on Germany?

7. How was German unification achieved in 1871? What was the relationship of unification and the 1848-49 revolution?

8. Can Nazism be viewed as part of European wide anti-Semitic and anti-democratic movement or as something peculiarly German?