SPAIN

Please answer any two 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. What were the factors and implications in choosing Madrid as a capital city in the sixteenth century? What does the choice of Madrid tell you about Castilian society and the relation between the center and peripheral kingdoms?

2. What were the salient features of the cultural transformations known as the Golden Age of Spain? What was its historical context and its achievements and failures. Be specific. You need to refer to several of the major literary works produced during the period, as well as to other aspects of Spain’s cultural production in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

3. What were the important themes in Philip II’s reign? What were its successes? What were its failures. In detail discuss two of the following:
   A) the defeat of the Spanish Armada
   B) The Alpujarras uprising of 1568
   C) The Antonio Perez Affair
   D) The administration of Empire
   E) Foreign Affairs

4. What happened to Spain in the early seventeenth century? Was there a decline: What was the nature of the decline: Knowing what you do about the reforms of the Catholic Monarchs, why did Spain almost disintegrate in 1640? What were the causes of the collapse of Spain? Make references to the historiographical debate on Spain’s decline.

5. The rule of Ferdinand and Isabella brought an end to a period of magnate anarchy and of general violence. How did the Catholic monarchs restore order? What was the nature of their administrative, economic and social reforms? How successful were these reforms? Discuss in detail and provide examples.

6. Discuss the role of the Jews and Conversos in Spanish history up to 1550. Be specific. Provide names and events. Discuss the issues leading to the creation of the Inquisition and the expulsion of the Jews in 1492.
7. Montesquieu said that by the eighteenth century Spain had become a dependency of its colonies. What did that mean? Discuss.

8. Why was the Spanish, unlike the French or the English crown, so concerned about the legitimacy of its overseas colonies?

9. Assess the role of either theater or music (or both) in the creation and diffusion of Iberian notions of kingship.

10. Does it make sense to think of a “Catholic Monarchy” of Spain and Portugal, 1580-1640, as a single political whole?

11. What role did competition with the Ottomans play in the creation of Charles V’s imperial image?

12. Adam Smith celebrated the voyages of Columbus and Vasco da Gama as the greatest events in human history since the creation. Were they, and if so why?