History 11B Final Examination Essay Review Questions
Winter 2019

The final will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 8:00 am - 11:00 am in WS Young 4216 (our regular classroom).

The final will consist of three parts: A) short-answer ID questions; B) one thematic essay question (out of a choice of two); C) one essay based on analysis of our primary source readings.

Review questions for Part C. Note: these are the actual questions that will appear on the final. Two of these questions will be selected for the final. You will be asked to write on one of them.

1) Compare the hortatory instructions in Kangxi’s “Sacred Edict” (and its amplifications) (wk 5) with the Taiping Ten Commandments and religious verses (wk 7). To what extent does Taiping ideology represent a radically new belief system? To what extent do the Taipings resemble earlier (or later) popular religious protest and activism? Based on these documents and other readings for the course, why do you think the Chinese elites (such as Zeng Guofan) sided with the Qing state against the Taipings?

2) Based on your reading of Sheang Yan-liu’s memories of the examination system (wk 7) and Lu Xun’s short story “Kong Yiji” (wk 8), analyze Chinese attitudes toward Confucian learning in the twentieth century. What critiques of Confucian learning and the examination system do these authors offer? What historical conditions/and or movements helped to shape these attitudes?

3) Imagine that you are an editor/censor in the cultural propaganda department of the Chinese Communist Party circa 1942. Based on the guidelines laid out in Mao Zedong’s “Talks at the Yan’an Conference on Art and Literature” (wk 9), write a critique of the 1933 film Daybreak (wk 9). Does this represent good socialist art? Why or why not? What elements of the short story can be condoned, or even applauded, and what should be condemned? Supply reasoning for your assertions.

4) The Chinese Communist Party came to power promising to “liberate” the peasants through land reform and to bring equality to the sexes. Based on William Hinton’s Fanshen, Carma Hinton’s documentary, Small Happiness, and the propaganda pamphlet Li Jinfeng (all wk 10), which, if either, of these promises was achieved? Did these two goals come into conflict, and, if so, how?