You must do a total of three (3) questions. Section A is MANDATORY. Choose two questions from Section B.

Be sure each essay has a clear line of argument, addresses as many dimensions of the question as possible, and offers relevant, persuasive evidence from specific secondary sources wherever appropriate. Good luck!

Section A: MANDATORY -- answer this question:

1. You have been hired to teach African history at a public Midwestern university and your department chair wants you to develop a semester-long course “Introduction to African History” which will attract history majors, and also serve as an elective for majors who have chosen a global studies focus. Develop a 2-page rationale for the course that addresses your approach to this challenge in a 100 level course. In addition to the rationale for the syllabus, develop three broad subsections and provide 1-2 page abstracts of what each will cover and what major readings will be used as well. Finally, describe an assignment, whether written, oral or digital, that advances your pedagogical aims for the course (1-2 pages).

Section B: Answer TWO of the following four questions:

2. How has the study of slavery in Africa changed over the past 50 years? What have been the principal models and debates, and to what extent do these models and debates reflect wider trends in African historiography or represent an independent subfield?

3. African historians have struggled to come to grips with the full richness of the lives of their subjects, who have tended to be analyzed as either workers or fighters. On the other hand, many treatments of leisure, as relaxation activities devoid of major social significance, also do not do justice to the African experience. In your opinion, to what extent have African labor studies and leisure studies informed and influenced each other, since the mid-1990s?

4. Did colonialism introduce new inequalities to African societies, or did it mainly magnify existing inequalities? Answer in relation to class formation in two colonies in East Africa.

5. Identify and discuss three major methodological innovations in the study of African History since the 1970s. To what extent did these innovations emerge in response to local research conditions and priorities, or instead to shifts in wider academic developments outside of Africa? In your opinion, what are the strengths and weaknesses of these three methodological innovations, and how well suited are they for your own research agenda?