Answer one question from each of the following groups:

I.

a. The law can be an instrument of social control as well as an instrument of protection. How has the law functioned with regard to racialized minorities within the United States during major periods of U.S. history since 1800? How have the legal experiences of groups varied and how have the collective experiences of racialized minorities (if and when they can be viewed collectively) changed over time?

b. It has become commonplace to define race and racial formation in the United States as a binary opposition between black and white, an opposition that produced through culture, politics and economics the condition of "black over white." Scholars have also defined gender and sexuality in binary terms: male/female, gay/straight. How (and by whom) have these binary been challenged in the past 20 years? How successful have scholars been in integrating communities defined by color or sexual orientation into narratives of the United States? Explain those areas where this new scholarship has been most successful and where it has had little impact. As you proceed, be sure to define the terms you are using: gay, straight, black, white, etc.

II.

a. Using examples drawn from the material discussed in your reading list, explain how In the period before the Civil War, "gender" (both the experience of gendered bodies and the ideas generated by gender ideologies) affected the course of settler colonialism, the evolution of the U.S. nation state, and the ideology of American expansion?

b. Describe how you would organize a graduate seminar on "Race, Gender and Culture in the United States." What themes and authors would you emphasize? How would you apportion time in the syllabus for different topics? This question offers you an opportunity to provide a 'snapshot' of your examination field. What does that snapshot look like?

III.

a. What is Asian American Studies' challenge to the study of American cultural and intellectual history? What is the Asian American Studies agenda and what new fields does it promise to open for future scholarship? Illustrate your answer with specific reference to recent scholarship.

b. Queer theory and queer color critique have recently been applied in arenas beyond the study of sexuality or of LGBT communities. Describe the nature of these applications and evaluate their significance.