Answer one question from each section. You must do a total of three (3) questions. 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 I

A. What is comparative colonialism? How is it most often practiced? What are the stated goals of the field? How has the field been shaped by feminist attention to women and gender as analytical categories in the last two decades? Discuss the most influential scholars, their methodological approaches, and the impact they have had on the histories of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

B. Compare and contrast the work done on the French and British colonial experiences around the concepts of creolization, the body and sexuality. To what extent has historiography followed the flag (and the archive) in these areas, and how can creative borrowing across colonial sites enrich scholarship on race and gender in imperial history?

Section II

A. In recent years, the field of comparative colonialism has devoted a great deal of attention to detailing the historiography of difference. What are some of the most common elements under discussion in these works? In what ways did the Enlightenment contribute to modern notions of difference? How does attention to those elements help or hinder our understanding of the colonial ideal and colonial practice in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?

B. You have been invited to develop and teach a fifteen-week survey course on “European Imperialism, 1750-1850” at the 100 level. While your department chair has given you a great deal of flexibility in terms of how to structure the course, she would like to see “non-Western” histories fully incorporated into the survey's approach and into as many of its central themes as possible. In a carefully constructed course proposal, identify the three major pedagogical goals for the course and then go on to discuss the central themes that will be addressed over the weeks. Discuss three or four key readings that you will require of your undergraduate students and explain their significance to the intellectual architecture of the course.

Section III
A. While scholars of colonialism have long recognized the way racial categories were complicit in the maintenance and exercise of colonial power, there has been far less attention paid to the emergence of whiteness. Your dissertation sets the stage for the emergence of a gendered white identity in the eighteenth-century French Caribbean. How would you define whiteness? What specific cultural, social, and economic imperatives did whiteness demand in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? Why are questions of gender and sexuality at the forefront of studies of whiteness in colonial cultures? How do questions of creolization and ethnicity impact the formation of whiteness in colonial cultures? How do the imperatives of whiteness change over time and space?

B. What is valuable about a specifically historical—as opposed to sociological, ethnographic or literary—approach to postcoloniality? Or are historical methods perforce intersectional and/or interdisciplinary? What is at stake in the application of historical method however you define it for postcolonial studies?