Directions: Answer one question in each of the three sections below. Be sure that your essay has a clear line of argument, engages with both the relevant history and historiography, and discusses specific scholars and scholarly works.

Conceptual/Theoretical and Pedagogical Questions

1. Discuss the road to and reasons for the dominant historiographical consensus after the Second World War around the modern origins of nations and nationalism. What brought about the dethroning of the previous primordialist/organicist paradigm? Please give appropriate historiographical examples. In your view, is the modernist consensus warranted? How does it fare in view of the recent challenges coming from perennialism and ethno-symbolism?

2. The year is 2015. After completing your dissertation and enjoying a post-doctoral fellowship, you have secured a tenure-track job at a major US university where one of your assignments is to teach an upper-level undergraduate course titled “Culture and Nationalism.” The course must center on Europe during the past 300 years but in a global context. How will you conceptualize and organize this course? Will certain key theories of the nation underpin what you teach? For the purposes of the course, how will you define national identity? What will be the principal goals and unifying themes? What countries and cultures will you study, and what books and articles—including primary texts and secondary sources—might you assign, and why? How will you establish the contemporary significance of the subject? Not least of all, how will you keep the course interesting? As you write, remember your specific targeted audience—upper-level college students in America.

Marxism, Socialism/Communism and Nationalism

1. Marxism and nationalism are probably the two most influential secular ideologies of allegiance in modern history. Yet the Anglo-Argentinian sociologist Ronaldo Munck has labeled the intellectual relation between Marxism and nationalism “the difficult dialogue.” What does Munck have in mind with this characterization? Begin your essay by sketching Marx and Engel’s views on “the national question,” indicating how their ideas developed over time in specific texts addressing European and non-Western societies. In the body of your essay, write a genealogy of Marxism, with special attention to Austro-Marxism and Leminism from the mid-nineteenth century to the Second World War. The essay should address both the intellectual and political aspects of the topic. In other words, how have post-Marxist thinkers theorized class, nation, and state?
2. How has nationalism as a political belief system actually played out in specific socialist states? Discuss developments in the USSR from 1917 until its downfall as well as the legacy of state socialism in Eastern Europe after the Second World War. How have historians tended to address the historical relationship between socialism and nationalism, both in general terms and in particular cases? Throughout your essay, the emphasis should be on the internal diversity within this historical story. Compare at least three concrete cases. Finally, based on your own reading of the modern historical record, do you think a reconciliation of nationalism and Marxism is possible?

**Religion, Nationalism and the State**

1. Religion and nationalism are widely regarded today as the two most prevalent and powerful—and deadly—ideologies in modern history. Write an essay on the range of historical relations between these two vast fields. You should illustrate your essay with references to as many European countries and regions as possible, including the Ottoman case, and to as many religions as possible. Be sure to discuss nations with a single, dominant religion (such as Spain, Italy, and France) as well as multi-faith societies. Likewise, consider religion as a positive affiliation and a negative sentiment (i.e., the role played by anti-Catholicism, anti-Semitism, anti-Muslimism, etc.) in the formation of national identities. How has the historical interaction of religion and nationalism been complicated by class (especially differences among peasants, city dwellers, and ruling elites) and by gender? Chronologically, your essay should focus on modern Europe, but against the backgrounds of the medieval monarchies and the early modern nation states. Be sure to include in your analysis events occurring in the Balkans during the late twentieth century. In closing, including some observations about religion and the formation of nationhood in world events of the past year.

2. How have scholars addressed state-directed (nationalizing) cultural policies? Relate these themes to the relevant body of theory (especially questions concerning the conceptualization of national culture, as well as the role of intellectuals). Discuss various concrete case studies and compare processes in Europe by evoking comparative examples from each of the major European subregions – Western, Southern, Central and Eastern Europe.