Choose and answer one question in each section. You must respond to a total of three (3) questions. Be sure each response has a clear line of argument, addresses as many dimensions of the question as possible, and offers relevant, persuasive evidence from specific secondary sources. Good luck!

Section I: Answer one question

A. Contrast the Church of Rome in 1500 with Western European Christianity in 1600. We suggest you cover three distinct fields of contrast, such as: popular piety, theology, daily life, gender, political authority, or Christian institutions.

B. Why was ritual such a focal point for conflict and violence in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?

C. How and why did the European Reformation begin in the Holy Roman Empire? How has this question been addressed or overlooked in the field of Reformation studies over the last decades?

Section II: Answer one question

A. How have historians conceptualized empire during the early modern period? What developments in early modern Europe have historians studied under the concept of empire, and how successful are these approaches? How does empire affect our understanding of major early modern themes (such as religion, race, gender, nation-state, modernity)? (Be sure to define your terms)

B. How did the position of religious minorities change in Western Europe during the early modern period? What were the underlying catalysts for these changes and how were they related to larger developments in European culture, religion and politics?

Section III: Answer one question

A. You have been asked to create a syllabus for a 300-level course on Early Modern Europe. Write the first day's introduction in which you set up the course. Your essay should explain the specific themes on which you would focus and the works (primary and secondary) you would assign for your class. How would you structure the topics over the course of the semester? Indicate primary sources where you think they will be appropriate.
B. For scholars today, how useful is the category “early modern”? For example, how useful is the period "early modern" for understanding gender history? How does it inform attempts to write both global and European histories?