1. **Obligatory Question:**
   Discuss the history of nation-state formation in Latin America from independence through the 1980s. How have different generations of historians, and different ideological/conceptual perspectives approached this question? What have been the most controversial issues? Which turning points have scholars highlighted to characterize this process? Be sure to consider issues of political culture, political economy, as well as notions about society, race/ethnicity, regionalism and religion in your answer.

2. **Answer one of the following two questions:**
   a) Compare and contrast the history of Afro-Americans in Brazil and Cuba over the past two centuries in light of shifting historiographical debates. In your discussion include consideration of slavery and the emancipation process, post-emancipation labor, cultural and social movements, state policies, and socio-economic conditions in various eras.
   b) How would you design the syllabus for a 15-week course on the post-colonial history of indigenous peoples in Latin America? What themes, topics and issues need to be included? What theoretical/conceptual/methodological approaches will you introduce to the students? What periodization would you use? Provide at least five books that you might use as texts and give an explanation of your choices. What would you consider the three or four most important cognitive goals for such a course?

3. **Answer one of the following two questions:**
   a) Over the last three decades, women and gender have become essential topics in the historiography of colonial Latin America and the Spanish Empire. Focusing on key works in the literature, describe the major trends in colonial women’s and gender history since the 1970s. Explain how the interventions by historians of women and gender have altered scholarly understandings of the meta-narratives of colonial Latin American history. How have historians’ methodologies, questions, and representations of women changed over time? How have changing conceptions of race, gender, and empire impacted historians’ understandings of women’s lives during the colonial era?
   b) Since the birth of ethnohistory in the 1960s, indigenous peoples have become central to the study of colonial Latin American history. Emphasizing scholars’ changing understandings of the Spanish Empire, describe the major works in the history of indigenous peoples in Latin America. What has ethnohistory contributed to our knowledge of colonial Latin American history? How have historians’ methodologies, questions, and representations of indigenous people changed since the publication of Charles Gibson’s *The Aztecs under Spanish Rule*? In doing so, how have scholars reconceptualized the role of indigenous people in the Spanish Empire as well as colonial society more broadly?
Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Field: Latin American History

1. **Obligatory Question:**
   Discuss the literature on native people and Catholicism--as they both relate to the emergence and consolidation of empire. On the one hand, Charles Gibson’s pioneering work, *The Aztecs under Spanish Rule*, indigenous history has occupied an important position within the colonial Latin American historiography. Starting with Gibson, how has the field of indigenous history changed over time? What have been the major trends in indigenous history? How have scholars’ conceptual, theoretical, and methodological frameworks evolved? Related to these questions, how have scholars conceived of indigenous agency and their relationship to the Spanish Empire? On the other hand, the Catholic Church has often been described as a powerful institution that helped the Crown impose its hegemony over the Americas. How have scholars’ understandings of Church power changed over time? What effect, if any, did the Church have on women, native peoples, and Africans in Colonial Latin America? How did they respond to the intrusions of the Church in their lives? Could any these groups shape or influence the Church?

2. **Answer one of the following two questions:**
   a) Since the works of Asuncion Lavrin, Eleanor Burkett, and Irene Silverblatt, in the 1970s and 1980s, the field of women’s and gender history has become a vibrant field in the colonial Latin American historiography. How have historians understood women’s agency over time? What impact, if any, did empire have in their lives? What role, if any, did gender and racial/ethnic hierarchies play in their subordination or lack thereof?
   b) Frank Tannenbaum’s *Slave and Citizen* was one of the first works to play close attention to Africans in the New World. Starting with *Slave and Citizen*, how has the study of Africans in the New World changed over time? What have been some of the important conceptual and methodological frameworks that have been employed by scholars in this field? How have scholars understood African agency (both slave and freed)? Do they have the power to shape empire?

3. **Answer one of the following two questions:**
   a) How would you design the syllabus for a 15-week course on the post-colonial history of indigenous peoples in Latin America? What themes, topics and issues need to be included? What theoretical/conceptual/methodological approaches will you introduce to the students? What periodization would you use? Provide at least five books that you might use for the text and give an explanation of your choices. What would you consider the three or four most important cognitive goals for such a course?
   b) How has the literature on populism in Latin American history shifted over the past fifty years? How has the notion been defined by various authors? Does it make sense to speak of an age of populism in Latin America, or not, and why? What, if any, were “typical” populist policies? Is populism an identifiable political program or just a style of politics? Exemplify your
answer with at least three political regimes and “populist” leaders of the
twentieth century. Does the term still make sense for Latin American politics
today? If so, what is different about populism today compared to, say, the
1930s or 40s?