Modern U.S. prelim, November 2013

Instructions: Answer one question from each pair. You should discuss a wide range of historiography over the course of the exam.

Pair 1:

A. How have racial concepts such as whiteness, blackness, and brownness shaped Mexican-American civil rights during the long twentieth century?

B. How has Mexican-American historiography addressed the role of anti-immigrant discourse from the mid-19 century to the present?

Pair 2:

A. What are the competing paradigms that have reframed the Mexican American War? How have they reshaped our understanding of western expansion, conquest and the borderlands?

B. How well have histories of captivity and slavery centering on Native Americans engaged with recent histories of American slavery involving ostensibly white and black people? And how might the emerging literature on the former affect our understanding of the latter?

Pair 3:

A. How have transnational approaches intersected with colonial and post-colonial approaches to reshape our understanding of the Progressive Era?

B. Have historians working at the intersection of gender, class, race, and ethnicity made important interventions in the histories of World War II and the Cold War? If so, what is the nature of these interventions? If not, how would you characterize recent scholarship on these conflicts that attempts to engage with social and cultural history scholarship?