Modern US History  
Spring 2016

In the time allotted for this exam, you must write a total of **three (3) questions**, one from each section. 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 1**

1. How have histories of consumption affected our understandings of class formation in the United States?

2. Has recent scholarship on the Progressive Era influenced by the transnational and imperial turns just broadened geographies or has it led to a fundamental reconsideration of Progressive Era politics?

**Section 2:**

1. How well do *Roll Jordan Roll, Battle Cry of Freedom*, and *Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution* illuminate women’s experiences in slavery, war, and Reconstruction? To what extent have women’s history accounts challenged the core theses of two of these three works?

2. How has the manner citizenship and nation are understood in US history been affected by a greater focus on empire? How has geographical mobility of individuals and cultural goods likewise affected claims of citizenship and of national belonging? Finally, in what ways do concepts of transnationalism or diaspora enable us to better understand empire, citizenship, and the construction of difference?

**Section 3:**

1. Congratulations! You have been hired as a new assistant professor of history at a large research university. Given your research expertise on history of tourism, your new department chair asks you to develop an innovative version of the Modern US History survey. Describe this refreshing new version of the US History survey by providing:  
   a. a 2-page rationale for the course that includes the broad course objectives
b. the 3 or 4 major subsections of the course, with major readings for each subsection

c. a media or group project component that will allow students to engage the course objectives

d. one written course assignment that you would assign to your students, such as the topic of a midterm term paper

2. The transnational turn has inspired a reassessment of various dimensions of US History. What is the right and proper role of transnationalism—as an explanatory category, a historical force and a historiographical argument—in examining the history of the US since the early 20th century? How does it provide an effective tool to examining this history and what might not it capture?