Examination: US After 1830

Answer one question from each of these pairs:

I.

A. How have narratives framed by the concept of empire altered our understanding of three of the following: reform, race, the nation, and industrialization?

B. How have social, cultural and postcolonial history approaches affected interpretations of the Cold War era, including its roots, character, geography, periodization, cast of major characters, and significance?

II.

A. How have historians of American slavery grappled with the relative importance of structure, culture, and individual agency and how have their varying emphases affected the periodization of this topic?

B. How have recent histories of sexuality and family life affected historical understandings of patriarchy, racism, and other power relations? What is the source of these new understandings—new evidence, new assumptions about the definitions of family history and histories of sexuality, new frameworks—or something else?

III.

A. Your first teaching position is at a large public institution, with 16 week semesters, where you are asked to redesign the post-1877 U.S. History survey. How would you approach this task? What major themes would you emphasize? What books would be assigned and how would they facilitate your ability to illuminate the course’s theme(s)? Please note that a detailed syllabus (weekly readings, page numbers, etc.) is not required. Write a rationale for the course and enumerate three to five major sections, elaborating on your themes with at least 3 books for each.

B. Assess the state of “borderlands” history, with regard to publications that have appeared in the wake of Adelman and Aron’s 1999 theoretical article. In particular, how has the move towards transnational history either supported or undermined previously held ideas about borders and borderlands?