Race & Ethnicity Prelim Exam

Answer one question from each of the following three categories:

**Thematic**

1. The history of race in the U.S. is often the act of documenting the fraught process of political, social, and legal subject making into the nation state. How has immigration scholarship, which is also about the contested nature of subject making, complicated the history of race in the U.S.?

2. How has race been used as a heuristic to understanding a particular place? In other words, how has race been used as a lens to understand the history of a particular neighborhood or city? Does this perspective challenge larger narratives of the history of race in the U.S.?

**Methods**

3. Until recently race in the U.S. has largely been examined through a black/white binary. How effective have recent historians been in challenging this binary? More specifically, how has ethnic studies and the study of empire provided different interpretive lenses that has altered the common binary view of race among scholars?

4. Write a preliminary outline for a syllabus for an undergraduate course on the history of race in the U.S. Specify the five to six books that are required reading and explain what they are about and why you have chosen them, paying special attention to the ways they support the central aims of the course.

**Pre-1815 Content**

5. According to scholars, how has Enlightenment thinking shaped conceptions of race globally? How is this related to the lasting impact of imperialism?

6. How have historians conceptualized race as part of redefining U.S. history through a transnational lens? How have ideas about race travelled both domestically and through imperial spaces from coloniality to the present?