You should answer three of the following questions, at least one from each set. Be sure to pick questions that will enable you to discuss a wide range of scholarship without much repetition from answer to answer.

Set I
1. How has the recent attention to globalization affected scholarship on U.S. history prior to 1920? And conversely, how has U.S. history scholarship pertaining to the years between 1750 and 1919 contributed to the larger effort to conceptualize global history? In answering this question, you should discuss at least five texts that you think are particularly revealing lenses into the nexus between national and larger-scale histories.

2. Should Latin America prior to 1920 be seen as “empire’s workshop”? Why or why not? Be sure to consider different historians’ perspectives on this question when formulating your answer.

3. Some writers see little discontinuity in US (and proto-US) “foreign policy” from the nation’s birth down through the end of World War I and afterward, with early campaigns to seize land governed by the British, Native Americans, and Mexicans as simply early stages of what would eventually become a more global imperial project. Assess the merits and/or demerits of that viewpoint.

Set II
4. Some historians have called the Civil War a second American revolution. If you think this a legitimate appellation, compare the first revolution with the second in terms of causation, motor forces propelling each one forward, and outcomes (including both direct and indirect effects of each).

5. The question of the “agency” of the seemingly powerless has long been a subject of interest to historians. Discuss the meaning and value of this theme and the different ways that various authors you read have treated that subject as it applies to three periods in and/or aspects of the long era between 1750 and 1919.

6. Taking one of the fields listed below as your starting point, how well do the years between 1750 and 1919 cohere as a period? Have scholars writing in the field you selected from this list seen this span of time more in terms of major turning points or long-term continuities? To what extent do you agree with their periodizations and assessments of change over time? 1) migration history, 2) women’s history, 3) history of technology.