Instructions: Answer one question from each pair. At least one of your answers should be for option A and at least one for option B. Be sure to discuss a wide range of scholarship over the course of the exam.

Pair 1:
A. How have transnational approaches and attention to empire affected understandings of the Progressive Era? Be sure to evaluate how, if at all, these scholarly trends have affected key debates and central issues in this field.

B. How has “empire,” and imperial wars in particular, affected the course of “domestic” American history? In crafting your response, choose TWO of the following subjects and provide an in-depth exploration: foreign policy, race and gender relations, the economy, and the country’s political (constitutional) and social dynamics.

Pair 2:
A. According to the website for Harvard’s Program on the Study of Capitalism, although historians have identified individual and group agency “within given political economic orders,” they have treated “socio-political and economic worlds as discrete and intrinsically separate entities, implicitly endorsing the modern conception of the polity and economy as separate ‘spheres.’”
(http://studyofcapitalism.harvard.edu/home) Do you agree that this website has identified a problem in need of redress? Why or why not?

B. Historical narratives have often been said to emerge in the context of the rise of nationalism or the nation. With this in mind, provide an argument as to when you think the United States became a “nation”? In what ways have social movements or historical developments shaped the writing of history? How have they reinforced a greater sense of national belonging, or, thinking of transnationalism, given rise to alternative perspectives of national identity?

Pair 3:
A. How well has Eugene D. Genovese’s work on slavery stood the test of time? In particular, how has scholarship in women’s and gender history and scholarship on the U.S. Southwest underscored or challenged his interpretations of slavery?

B. Examine how modern US history, especially from the 1830s to the turn of the twentieth century, has grappled with the contradiction between the societal aspiration towards freedom and the realities of slavery, the dreams of mobility and the challenges of social constraint.