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 A

1. “The apartheid city” of South Africa has a particular historiography. What have historians identified as the major features of the apartheid city, and to what extent have these features been identified as common to African cities outside of southern Africa?

2. In the last 30 years, how have historians of urban Africa incorporated concepts of gender into their work?

Section B

3. A contingent of urban historians have argued for how particular spaces within the city become marked as racialized spaces, areas of crime, and of (undesirable) sexual activity. Discuss specific works that engage in this type of critical analysis and some of the novel contributions these scholars have made toward understanding the city as physical and imagined spaces in terms of race, sexuality, and gender. How has this approach to the study of urban history challenged/revised/enhanced earlier schools of thought among urban historians studying cities in the U.S. cities?

4. In reflecting on the transformation of U.S. cities over the long 20th century, in what ways does attention to region matter? In drafting your response, consider the origin of the “urban crisis” and rise of suburbs: Discuss key works that push urban historians to consider the particularities of region as well as works that challenge how an emphasis that the South, North, West, or Midwest regions might obfuscate more than clarify the evolution of US cities, the manner that those who reside in them sought to transform the city, as well as the how evolution of how power operated within the realm of urban politics.

Section C
5. Because migrant labor has been such an important aspect of African economic history, the best works on African cities also pay attention to residents’ connections to rural areas and communities. To what extent is this true in the historiography of American cities?

6. Cities can be compared to each other according to many different variables: size, architecture, culture, governance, housing, infrastructure, commerce and industry, demographics, etc. Which methodological tools would you choose to do a comparative historical study of New Orleans and Cape Town OR New York City and Lagos (please choose one set of cities to compare)? What major historical themes would you emphasize in using these particular tools for your study?

7. Congratulations! You have been hired as a new assistant professor at a large Midwestern research university, in the Department of Urban Planning. Your new department chair asks you to develop a new, semester-long course called “Global Cities” at the 100 level. It is anticipated that this course will draw about 150 students. Describe this new and exciting course 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. one really cool film that you would use
   d. one written course assignment that you would assign to your students, such as the topic of a midterm term paper