Answer one question from each section. You must do a total of three (3) questions. 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 I: Law and Empire

Studies of empire and law are arguably transforming our understanding of imperial history. What were the legal and administrative means that empires used during the early modern period and how did they change between 1450 and 1815? Given the diversity of empires you have studied analyze their differences and similarities. Drawing on these technologies of rule can one argue for a distinctive early modern?

Section II: Space and Empire

Though definitions of empire vary, almost all of them imagine it as a form of polity that makes expansive claims for authority over space. To what extent, however, did imperial claims to such authority actually have real effects on the human geography of subject populations, during the early modern period? Reviewing the spatial claims made by a sample set of empires,¹ ca. 1450-1815, consider whether they had the technical or political (or any other) means to make good on those claims, and to what effect for the lives of people who occupied the territories they claimed. As in the first question, offer some reflection on what (if anything) is distinctively 'early modern' about the relationship between space and empire in this period, bearing in mind both the larger, pre-modern (e.g. antique) history of empire, and the late modern experience of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Section III

Outline a course on the early modern world using empire as a category of historical analysis. Describe your goals for the course; develop a syllabus rationale for your method; and choose sub-themes. Break the course into 3 or 4 composite parts, each with its own synopsis; and offer a briefly annotated reading list that includes primary sources and secondary readings.

¹ Your list includes works on Chinese, Mongol, Russian, British, Spanish and other empires, so what I have in mind is thinking through the experience of a few of them.