US since 1815 Prelim
Write one essay from each of the following sections

Section 1

A) How has greater focus on the role of empire affected histories of class, race, ethnicity and gender identities in nineteenth-century US History? How does a focus on empire affect the periodization of US history and why? Give specific examples.

B) Scholars have argued citizenship has been as much a means of inclusion as one of exclusion when one considers US history and its process of nation-state building and territorial expansion. Analyze the manner the intersections of race, sexuality, and gender informs the construction of difference as it pertains to the effort to define citizenship by nation-states as well as in the various ways individual groups have sought to claim/obtain citizenship.

Section 2

A) The rise of urbanism—reflected in the demographic shift in the US population base in the 1890s—stands as a significant moment in US History. Scholars have examined cities to argue for how particular urban locations are marked as racialized spaces, areas of crime, and of (undesirable) sexual activity. Discuss critical works that illuminate valuable insights gained through the study of the city and its environs in this fashion. In what ways has this scholarship evolved to develop novel ways of understanding the city in terms of race, sexuality, and gender? Finally, how does this enable us to better understand the course of the 20th century?

B) Though “modernity” is a term widely used to refer to conditions and sensibilities associated with new modes of life in the twentieth century US, historians have recognized that it meant different things, and referred to different experiences of historical change, for different groups. Discuss some of these differences as they applied to positive as well as negative assessments of the changes associated with “modernity,” with specific reference to particular identities of ethnicity, race, gender, class, and sexuality that shaped them. Refer to specific historiography that has contributed to our understanding of these differences.

Section 3

Your first teaching position is at a large public institution, with 16 week semesters, where you are asked to redesign the U.S. History survey. How would you approach this task? What major themes would you emphasize? What books would be assigned and how would they facilitate your ability to illuminate the course’s theme(s)? Please note that a detailed syllabus (weekly readings, page numbers, etc.) is not required. Write a rationale for the course and enumerate 3 major sections, elaborating on your themes with 3 books and 3 articles for each.