Instructions: Choose three out of six questions below, answering one from each section. Be sure to discuss specific scholars and publications in your answers.

I General Historiography and Theory

Discuss the road to and reasons for the general historiographical consensus after the Second World War around the modern origins of nations and nationalism. What brought about the dethroning of the previous primordialist/organicist paradigm? Please give the appropriate historiographical examples. In your view, is this consensus warranted?

What have been some of the major challenges to the modernist argument, especially the ones coming from perennialism and ethno-symbolism? To what degree have these challenges been successful? How have newer studies of nationalism responded to these challenges, and how have they complicated earlier arguments?

II Comparative

You are assigned to teach an upper-level undergraduate course on “Comparative Nationalism” that must center on Europe during the past 250 years. How will you conceptualize and organize this course? Will certain key theories of the nation underpin what you teach? For the purposes of the course, how will you define national identity? What will be the principal goals and unifying themes? What countries and cultures will you study, and what books and articles—including primary texts and secondary sources—might you assign, and why?

Outline the place of Eastern European nationalism in a general European context. How do existing typologies of nationalism and dichotomies (about big and small nations, about the variable social base of nationalist elites, and especially about the organic versus civic divide) mark historiographical assessments?

III Area specific

What models best fit the case of Georgian nation-building and nationalism in the 19th and 20th centuries? How is the dichotomy organicist/modern dealt with in the historiography of Georgia (both Georgian and foreign)? How is the past instrumentalized? What was the effect of Soviet policies on the nation-building project of Georgian nationalists?
Trace the historiography of studies of Soviet nationalities policies. What are the key arguments and historiographical shifts, and how are these arguments related to broader studies of nation-formation and nationalism? What is the historiographical consensus today? Is there room for new research on Soviet nation-building, and if so what specifically has the current consensus overlooked?