

**The Graduate Center
PhD Program in History**

**FIRST EXAMINATION
Literature
Of
The Middle East**

Fall, 2017

Choose one essay question from each of the following sections. Keep in mind that you are being tested for general historical and historiographical knowledge. Give particular and different examples for each of the question you choose and cite authors and works that have deepened your understanding of points that you raise. Where differences of interpretation arise, evaluate them in light of your reading.

Part I

1. Traditional historiography interprets the modernizing project of the Ottoman Empire as an emulation of European modernity. In what ways has recent scholarship on Ottoman reforms challenged such a view?
2. The binary opposition of modern/traditional, secular/religious has been effectively challenged in recent literature. Explain by addressing the works of Asad, Anidjar and other historians.

Part II

1. Some scholars have argued that violence is intrinsic to modernity. Explain by giving examples from colonial and postcolonial historiography.
2. Is Sectarianism inherent or historical? Discuss in the context of Lebanon.