

History 80010: The Literature of American History to 1865
Essay Examination
December 2018

Please choose **two** of the questions from those listed below, one from Part One and one from Part Two. Please prepare your answers in an essay format. Citations are not necessary unless quoting, and can be informal for any work on the course syllabus. You will have eight hours during which to write your essays and submit them as e-mail attachments to Marilyn Weber: mweber@qc.cuny.edu

Part One

1. One overarching narrative that has often shaped the research and teaching of US history is modernization: at some point, America and its places and peoples transitioned from an old order to a modern one. Has recent work confirmed, recast, or rejected what might now be called, ironically enough, a traditional modernization narrative?
2. In 1968 Richard Hofstadter criticized the “consensus” approach he had been said to have helped elaborate. Is there a new “consensus” for early US history to 1865, and if so, what are its characteristics and its achievements and/or limits?

Part Two

3. In 2016 several historians of women and gender debated, in the pages of the *Journal of the Early Republic*, whether attending to women or gender in US history in that period has changed the mainstream narrative. Their answers differed. Has it done so for the colonial period up through the Civil War? Your answer might consider synthetic works and/or works that have explicitly focused on or incorporated women or gender.
4. Write an essay that agrees or disagrees with ONE of the following statements.
 - a) The colonial period set the stage for the rest of American history through the Civil War.
 - b) The colonial period was fundamentally different from later American history.
 - c) The era of the American Revolution and/or early republic reflected colonial origins.
 - d) The American Revolution was a great departure from the colonial period.
 - e) The American Revolution set the stage for US history to 1865.
 - f) The Civil War was a fulfillment of the colonial period and/or the era of the Revolution and early republic.
 - g) The Civil War was a fundamental departure from earlier US history.