

PhD Program in History

First Exam in European History, Fall 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@gc.cuny.edu*

Section one (pick one of two):

1) The medieval and early modern periods saw intense negotiation about the nature and content of belief. Please write an essay in which you trace the historiography addressing important threads in these debates, perhaps referring to the conflicts over the definitions of superstition and religion, debates over materiality and faith, the witch hunts, heresy trials, the making of saints, and legal definitions surrounding demonology.

2) The medieval and early modern periods witnessed close relationships between current events and religious content. Please write an essay in which you discuss the historiography that reflects how events and faith interacted, perhaps including the effect of religious writing on the Crusades and vice versa, King Louis IX, hagiography, the blood libel, the "discovery" of the New World, and the writing and religious fervor that surrounded the English Civil War.

Section two (pick one of two):

1) The economic history of late medieval and early modern Europe has attracted a great deal of historiographic attention. Please write an essay that describes the traditional economic narrative of this period and then provide several updated narratives, perhaps including discussions of the Black Death, sheep, feudalism, Dutch patriarchy, and the "middle class".

2) Social and cultural history have provided important additions to our thinking about the medieval and early modern periods since the 1970s. Please write an essay in which you discuss the traditional social history approach and conclusions about this period, then moderate that approach with references to more recent contributions, perhaps including discussions of hagiography, witch hunting, European expansion, print culture, scientific knowledge, and the English civil war.