

PhD Program in History
First Exam in Latin American History, Fall 2020

Please choose **two** of the questions from those listed below, one from Section One and the only option from Section Two. Please prepare your answers in an essay format. 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 1.

Please answer one of the following questions:

Colonialism figures prominently in both the history and historiography of Latin America. In what way has the representation of the colonial past changed since the 1950s? In crafting your response, identify the most influential authors/texts. Be sure to describe and discuss the contributions associated with the selected authors/texts. How have particular texts introduced substantial shifts in the historiographical conversation or have signaled a general re-orientation in the existing scholarship? Finally, what are the salient features of colonial rule prior to 1650?

Over the course of the semester, we have discussed how the social histories published in the 1980s reconfigured the study of Latin American colonialism. Please describe the depiction of Spanish colonialism as it appears in and through the social histories of the 1980s. How did these studies address the political and economic practices associated with Spanish colonialism? In what ways, has the subsequent historiography on port cities, the Caribbean, and merchant capitalism refined the perspectives derived from such social histories like Karen Spalding's *Huarochiri: An Andean Society Under Inca and Spanish Rule* (Stanford), Nancy Farriss, *Maya Society Under Colonial Rule* (Princeton), Stuart Schwartz, *Sugar Plantations in the Formation of Brazil* (Cambridge).

Section 2.

Please answer the following question:

Material life—subsistence, production, trade, exchange, and social reproduction—have been foundational in the histories of colonial Latin America. Did material life change with the *Entrada* and the early imposition of colonial rule? If it did, for whom did it change? How might one describe the pattern of change in the Americas before 1560? What factors precipitated change? What were the institutional arrangements that mediated colonial material life? Now that you have addressed the period prior to 1560, please identify major historical moments after 1560 when shifts in the dominant forms of material life experienced change throughout Latin America. What explains the pace and nature of these changes? In addressing this question, please be sure to reference both historical developments and the relevant historiography.

