

The Graduate Center  
Ph.D. Program in History

Questions for First Year Examination in Modern European History, Spring 2022

May 19, 2022

Please answer one question from section I and one question from question II. When addressing the questions, make sure to focus on historiography, and to include the work by the different historians whose work pertains to the theme under consideration. Your essay should include as many books discussed during the semester as possible, balancing throughout references to specific historical events and a sound analytical approach. You will have eight (8) hours to complete the exam. Please email your responses as an attachment to [mweber@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mweber@gc.cuny.edu).

### Section I

1. Which ONE(s) are the dominant theme(s) in modern European history and why? Make sure you justify your choice(s) with reference to literature from the course. (a) Nation-state building (b) Total war(s) (c) Nationalism and socialism.

2. Which ONE(s) are the most useful categories of historical analysis used by historians to approach the study of modern Europe and why? Make sure you justify your choice(s) with reference to literature from the course (a) Modernity (b) Center(s) and periphery(ies) (c) Gender.

### Section II

1. How do different historians explain the origin, development, and appeal of fascism in different contexts in Europe? Should the term be restricted to Europe from 1919 to 1945? Was Nazi Germany a fascist regime, or should it be considered something separate, and if so why? Your essay should also include some discussion of gender politics and fascism.

2. Define Bolshevism and the Soviet experiment. More specifically, how do different historians explain the origin, essence, and evolution of the Soviet system from 1917 through the 1950s? Be sure to include reference to the nationality question, society, and ideology, and explore the question of continuities and ruptures from late imperial Russia to the Russian Federation.