

PhD Program in History
Fall 2022, First Exam in European History

Please choose **two** questions, one from **Part I** and one from **Part II**, and prepare your answers in essay format. The essays should make clear and persuasive arguments, supported with appropriate historiographical evidence from the course material. Please provide precise examples from this semester's literature; citations are not necessary and can be informal for any work on the syllabus, unless you are quoting verbatim.

You have eight hours to complete both essays, which are weighted equally. Please submit your essays to Marilyn Weber (mweber@gc.cuny.edu)

Part I – please pick **one** question:

A) Many of this semester's readings raise the issue of periodization and the persistent pull of the modern period on medieval and early modern conceptual frames. Please elaborate on the ways in which historians have approached the meaning of "medieval" and "early modern" considering their relation to "modernity," discuss relevant historiographical debates, and reflect on whether in your opinion these interpretations advance or hinder historical discourse.

B) Concepts such as the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Seventeenth-Century Crisis, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment have gone through multiple interpretations over the years, including debates as to the usefulness of these definitions. Addressing at least three of the terms above, please discuss some of the ways in which historians have approached these themes in the past and are now re-reading them in light of more recent theories and methodologies.

Part II – please pick **one** question:

A) Imagine that you are asked to teach a course on women in early modern Europe. How would you articulate some of the sections of your course, based on this semester's readings? Please address not only literature on family and the household, but also how interpreting the past from the perspective of women's history has influenced approaches to the political sphere, the economy, and science.

B) Religion and ritual were prominent themes throughout the semester. Please address the ways in which historians have considered their role in relation to at least three of the following: the state; gender; violence; elite and popular culture.