

**THE GRADUATE CENTER
Ph.D. PROGRAM IN HISTORY**

**FIRST EXAMINATION:
LITERATURE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY MIDDLE EAST**

December 19, 2022

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. 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. Please make sure to choose your questions to avoid extensive overlap in your answers.

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

Section I

1. Recent studies have sought to integrate Ottoman and Middle East history more fully into the history of empires and narratives of global history. Drawing on three themes from the list below, evaluate the contributions of this literature to our understanding of the 19th-century Middle East:

revolution
modernization and reform
colonialism
imperial belonging (Ottomanism, pan-Islamism, citizenship)
capitalism

2. How have historians moved beyond the politics of the notables paradigm to reconceptualize relationships between Ottoman state and society in the long 19th century? Discuss the contributions and limits of this literature, particularly with attention to the question of negotiating power and rights among diverse actors in Ottoman society.

Section II

1. How has new literature on environmental history, history of science and technology, and governance contributed to our understanding of what constitutes a frontier? To what extent do you find these interventions useful for thinking about the 19th-century Middle East?
2. Drawing from revisionist studies on environmental history, political economy, and social history, explain how these studies are critical for moving away from the focus on "the state," and discuss specific works that could have benefited from greater attention to gender, minorities, and non-elites.