

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

1. Several readings from this semester delve into the question of periodization and the enduring influence of the modern period on conceptualizing the medieval and early modern eras. Please elaborate on the ways in which historians have approached the meaning of “medieval” and “early modern” considering their relation to “modernity.” Discuss pertinent historiographical debates and reflect on whether these interpretations, in your view, contribute to or impede the progress of historical discourse.
2. Concepts such as the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Seventeenth-Century Crisis, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment have undergone various interpretations over time, sparking debates on the usefulness and validity of these definitions. Focusing on at least three of these terms, please explore how historians have approached them in the past and how they are currently reevaluating them in the context of newer theories and methodologies.

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

1. Imagine that you are asked to craft a syllabus on gender in early modern Europe. How would you articulate some of the sections of your course, based on this semester’s readings? Please address the ways in which interpreting the past from the perspective of gender’s history – addressing both women’s and men’s lives as gendered – has influenced approaches to at least three of the following fields: the family and the household; religion; politics; the economy; science.
2. The acquisition and circulation of knowledge and power through printed books and material culture were prominent themes throughout the semester. Please address the ways in which historians have considered the role of the increasing availability of printed books and objects in relation to at least three of the following themes: religion; state growth; violence; the economy; elite and popular culture.