

HIS 111 Final Exam Study Guide • Prof. Mark Souther

Exam time: Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

The following guide includes the actual directions for each section of the exam, as well as all of the potential content of the exam. Please do not become complacent. A study guide should focus your preparation, not minimize it. You are still responsible for providing precise, analytical answers throughout the exam and, in fact, should perform at a higher level given the benefit of focused preparation.

Part I Short Identification. 30 points (6 points each). On the exam you will define 5 of 7 terms, indicating the decade(s) of greatest relevance to them *and* explaining their significance (meaning why each was influential to American history beyond its immediate definition). Below is a list of possible terms.

John C. Fremont	Convention of 1818	15th Amendment	Lecompton Constitution
Election of 1820	Monroe Doctrine	Panic of 1819	Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
Dred Scott	Conscience Whigs	Compromise of 1850	William Lloyd Garrison
Charles Sumner	Know-Nothings	Antietam	Burned-Over District
Crittenden Plan	Missouri Compromise	Kansas-Nebraska Act	Wade-Davis Bill
Nat's Rebellion	Popular sovereignty	Dorothea Dix	Stephen F. Austin
Frederick Douglass	Nullification Crisis	Francis Cabot Lowell	Freedmen's Bureau

Part II Essay. 60 points. On the exam you will write a well-developed essay (typically several substantial paragraphs) that responds to 1 of 2 topics. Be sure you present as much *specific* evidence as you can to support your argument. Below are 3 possible topics from which I will draw.

1. Analyze the importance of the American frontier (in this case defined as the lands west of the Mississippi River) between 1815 and 1860. How did the nation expand into the frontier, and what are the most significant people and events that shaped this expansion? What challenges did the frontier present for the nation, including its impact on the political fight over slavery, and which people and events loom large in discussions over how the West should be handled?
2. Retrace the worsening sectional rift between northerners and southerners, between the Missouri Crisis in 1819 and the Crittenden Plan in 1861. In your answer, be sure you identify and explain the most important actions intended to calm the dispute and why each one ultimately proved unsuccessful, as well as the major moments that worsened the conflict.
3. Describe the effects of the market revolution on American society, paying particular attention to the rise of cities, the changing nature of commerce and industry, new conditions for workers, social problems and efforts to address them, and efforts to escape by fashioning an alternative society.

Part III Document Analysis. 10 points. On the exam you will choose 1 of the following 2 items that are drawn from materials assigned on the course blog. You must draw upon *specific* details from the course thus far to support your answer. The goal of this exercise is to demonstrate that you can situate a primary source in broader context through a historically informed examination of connections to other events, times, or ideas covered in the course.

1. Read the selections "The Black Laws" (1865) and "The Patenburg Massacre" (1872) in the "Northern Racism and Violence" section of the following web page: <http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/4Reconstruction/ReconLevelOne.htm>. I will include these selections on the exam, and you will write a paragraph answer to the following question: How do these primary sources complicate your understanding of the sectional rift in the 1860s-70s?
2. View the cartoons "This is a White Man's Government" (1868) and "Worse Than Slavery" (1874) and read the accompanying text for each. These are in the "Southern Violence, Reconstruction Unravels, 1868-1874" section of the following web page: <http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/4Reconstruction/ReconLevelOne.htm>. I will include these selections on the exam, and you will write a paragraph answer to the following question: How do these primary sources complicate the idea that the Civil War marked a turning point in American history?