

HISTORY 118
MIDTERM EXAM HANDOUT
Thursday, October 12, 2017

TWO of the following three questions will appear on the exam.

The end of slavery in the United States in 1865 did not mean the beginning of full social and political equality for African Americans. Describe two or three of the most significant civil rights challenges that emerged in the period between 1865 and 1920, and explain how individual black leaders tried to organize grassroots efforts to overcome them.

American women finally secured the right to vote with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. Yet suffrage was one of several causes that motivated female activism in the decades after the Civil War. Describe two or three of the most significant post-war reform movements that relied heavily upon women, and analyze whether they contributed to the arguments for women's suffrage, or perhaps slowed the effort toward gender equality, as some claimed at the time.

Poverty increasingly became a subject of national debate in the decades between the Civil War and World War I. How did leading politicians and titans of industry react to signs of economic polarization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? Which groups emerged to challenge the perspectives and power of these wealthy elites? Among the leading radicals and reformers, what were some of their most significant proposed solutions to the crisis of poverty in America?

GENERAL ADVICE

Good essay exam answers begin by providing a clear thesis or interpretation and by defining any key terms in the question. You don't need to restate the question, but you should address its terms directly in the opening paragraph. The best answers then proceed to support their interpretation by providing specific historical examples arranged in a logical, compelling and CHRONOLOGICAL fashion. Essays should offer a high level of detail, including the use of brief quotations or striking examples and should also take care to anticipate potential objections or alternatives to their interpretations.

REMINDERS

- Students may study together but must produce their own answers
- Each essay should occupy several blue book pages and take about 30-35 minutes
- Missing an exam is only an option in an emergency or for documented sickness