AMH 2010
Final Essay Questions- Fall 2014

Below you will find 8 essay questions, divided into 2 groups of 4. The essay questions on the test will be taken from these questions. Your final will have 2 groups of 2 essays. One group will be cumulative; the other since the midterm. You will have to answer 1 question from each group- for a total of 2 essays. You must bring a blue book to the exam.

Your final will also consist of 6 of 10 short answer IDs. These will be worth 1 point apiece- for a total of 6 points. The IDs will be taken only from material since the midterm. These IDs will consist of important persons, events, court cases, ideas, slogans, etc. Write an answer giving the importance and significance of the ID. Be specific and detailed enough to describe the ID. Place the ID in an historical context- give me some idea of the importance of the ID- for example, if the ID was Abraham Lincoln- just stating “Lincoln was an American President” , though technically correct, would not be enough to get you credit. I give partial credit for IDs. The final will be worth 30 points towards your final grade, as each essay will be worth 12 points.

Group One- Cumulative

1. From the arrival of British settlers in Jamestown in 1607 to the Civil War, the growth of the American nation can be viewed as the “opening of American society.” Explain this statement, taking account of the many possible meanings of the word “opening.”

2. Evaluate the development of the United States from colonies to nation in light of the term “clash of cultures.” How did these cultural clashes shape the ways in which the American nation grew and changed?

3. Historian Edmund Morgan viewed American freedom as an outgrowth of the dependence on slave labor. Explain the tortured ways in which American society developed notions of freedom and slavery taking into account the experiences of both white and black Americans from the 17th century up till the Civil War.

4. The growth of American society has depended upon the efforts of both men and women. Using what you learned in class and from the textbook, as well as explicit examples from articles in Women, Families, & Communities, explain the role of women in helping to shape the American nation from colonization to the Civil War.

Group Two on back
Group Two- Since Midterm

1. Explain the Market Revolution of the early 19th century and tell how it affected American society and the American economy.

2. Explain the decade of the 1790s as a time of contentious political conflict. Why did this conflict take place and what shape did it take? Be sure to discuss the events surrounding the writing and ratification of the Constitution in the late 1780s and end by discussing the critical election of 1800 and why it was so important.

3. Explain the 2nd Great Awakening as a religious and social phenomenon, taking into account both its development and the many reform movements that arose as a result of its impact. Focus especially on abolition and its close relationship to this religious phenomenon.

4. Explain the struggle over slavery as a political, social, economic, and moral issue that eventually divided the nation. Start your discussion with the American Revolution, go through the events of the antebellum period & write until your pen runs dry.