AMH 2010 - Fall 2014
Midterm Essay Questions

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 midterm will have 2 groups of 2 essays. You will have to answer 1 question from each group- for a total of 2 essays. Each essay will be worth 12 points. The total midterm will be worth 30 points (2 12 point essays, & 3 2 point IDs). This 30 point total counts for 30 % of your course grade. You must bring a blue book to the exam. The midterm will be given during the double class period on Thursday, October 16th.

Your midterm will also consist of answering 3 of 6 short answer IDs. These will be worth 2 points apiece- for a total of 6 points. These IDs will consist of important persons, events, court cases, ideas, slogans, etc. Write fully to describe the importance and significance of the ID. Be specific. 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.

Group One


2. Explain the four major types of British colonial communities that developed by the middle of the 18th century. Talk about the economic, political, and social characteristics that made each community unique.

3. “The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the hearts and minds of the people. . . . This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people was the real American Revolution.” Explain this quote by John Adams, paying particular attention to the years 1763-1775 and the gradual movement towards revolution within the American colonies.

4. Explain the evolution of the slave system in the American South from its origins to the burgeoning plantation systems of the mid to late 18th century. Be sure to mention the economics of the plantation system, the differing forms of slave systems in the Chesapeake and the Low Country, and the lives of slaves in the quarters and their accommodations or opposition to their bondage.

Group 2  Essays on next page
1. The American Revolution has been described as a fight for home rule - a breaking away from the mother country of England. It has also been categorized as a dispute over who will rule at home - a fight over the shape of American political culture. Which of these two descriptions is correct? Explain your answer in light of the political turmoil that overtook America in the last quarter of the 18th century.

2. Explain how John Demos’s book The Unredeemed Captive changes historical perceptions of both native-white relations and imperial conflict in 18th century New England.

3. How and why did slavery change in light of both Bacon’s Rebellion and the South Carolina Negro Act of 1740? Give political, social, and economic reasons for the change.

4. Compare and contrast the economic and political crises that embroiled both Virginia and Massachusetts in the last 30 years of the 17th century (1600s). What were the major causes of the conflicts, how did they play out over time and how were they eventually resolved.