

**History 137**  
**Final Exam Review**  
**Winter 2013**

The exam will have three parts:

- Part I will consist of ten objective questions. (10%)
- Part II will be short essay questions from the last section of the course. You will answer two questions from a list of at least four. (60%)
- Part III will be a comprehensive essay covering the major themes of the class. You will answer one from a list of at least two. (30%)

**Review Questions for Part II:**

1. The 1920s have often been called the “Roaring ‘20s.” How accurate is that term? How did the economy of the 1920s lead into the Great Depression?
2. The election of 1932, said Herbert Hoover, was "a contest between two philosophies of government." Describe the competing philosophies of government offered by Hoover and FDR in the election of 1932. Why did FDR win? Compare and contrast their responses to the Great Depression. Which was more successful? Why?
3. Place the New Deal into context. Was it a radical or moderate approach to solving the Great Depression? In what ways was it radical? In what ways was it moderate or conservative in nature?
4. How did the New Deal affect voting patterns in the United States? Who made-up the Roosevelt coalition of voters? Why did those people support Roosevelt and the Democratic Party?
5. What effects did World War II have on American society, the economy, the role of government, and foreign policy? How did the political rhetoric of the war era affect social movements in the United States?
6. How did American foreign policy and attitudes towards the military change after World War II? Why?
7. What was the Cold War and how was it fought by the United States and the Soviet Union? Consider both foreign and domestic policies.
8. Why did the United States go to war in Vietnam? What was the goal? What strategies and tactics were used? How was success measured? Why did the U.S. struggle to achieve its goals? Why did the U.S. eventually lose the war?
9. Trace the Civil Rights Movement from 1946 through the Civil Rights Act of 1964. What tactics did they use? What were the major events of the era? Why did they look to the President and Supreme Court to promote equality and protect Civil Rights? What gains were made? What wasn't accomplished with the Civil Rights Act? How did the movement affect politics and voting patterns in American society?

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10. Describe the various social movements of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. What gains did they make? How? How did the civil rights movements affect voting patterns in the United States? How did they affect the election of 1980 and the politics of the following era?
11. Compare and contrast Republican Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. When did they serve? What were their views on the role of government? What were their views on foreign policy? What actions did they take while in office? How do their views compare? How do their actions compare?

**Review Questions and Topics for Part III:**

1. Trace the rise of America to superpower status from the 1890s to the present. When and how did America become a superpower?
2. How did the role of the government change from Reconstruction to the present? Consider the role of the federal government in building public works, regulating the economy, providing for the social welfare of Americans, and addressing civil rights. (Consider Reconstruction Era policies, Reform Movements, World Wars, the Great Society, Civil Rights Movement, etc.)

**General Suggestions for Review:**

1. Consider political, economic, and social trends in America from 1877.
2. Focus on asking yourself "how" and "why" questions. For example, how did World War II affect the economy of the United States? Why did American attitudes towards the military change after World War II? Try to answer these questions from memory, and then study them again.
3. Focus on major themes and significant events. This course covers a lot of material. Don't try to memorize every last detail. Think about the major themes and review the "facts" that illustrate them. It is far easier to remember details in context than to memorize random facts.
4. Work on answering these review questions by outlining them. You will be able to review your outlines much more quickly than all of your notes for the class.
5. Don't try to review all of these questions at once. You will do better with them if you work on one or two at a time.