

**Essay Questions for the Third Exam: *The Early Modern World***

Wednesday 15 December, 2010 – 7:30-10:00pm in DUAN PHYS G1B30

**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BLUE BOOKS!!**

For this exam answer ONE of TWO questions chosen from the possible FIVE listed below. As you prepare keep the following in mind:

- a.) Be sure that your essay has a clear thesis and follows a coherent line of argumentation.
- b.) End your essay with a conclusion that summarizes your argument.
- c.) Evidence for your answers should be drawn from the Making of the West textbook, lecture, discussion, and the outside texts and articles assigned for the course thus far. Good essays will employ a variety of these sources.
- d.) Be sure to avoid sweeping generalizations. The best answers are those grounded in precise language and detail (yes that means dates!).

\*\* You may bring to the exam outlines, notes, thoughts, quotations, dates, names, and whatever else you may need to compose your essay – but all of this information must fit on THIS SHEET OF PAPER (front and back). Because you have ample time to prepare your answers in advance I expect your essay to be well-organized and detailed. You must bring this piece of paper with you to the exam and turn it in with your blue book(s). Any exams without this page will not be graded. (A good answer will be at least 4 single-spaced pages in a blue book.) \*\*

**Possible Questions:**

1. The Fourth Lateran Council of 1215 and the Council of Trent (1547-1563) were major efforts at reforming the Catholic Church. Identify three goals that these councils had in common. In what ways was the Catholic Church successful at reform and in what ways had it failed by the mid-16<sup>th</sup> Century?
2. “The plague cycle was the death knell of medieval European civilization. The communities on the other side of the divide were radically different from those flourishing before the Black Death.”  
Discuss. Be sure to define the plague cycle, giving its dates, causes, characteristics and consequences. Be specific.
3. Analyze the nature of Luther’s critiques of the Catholic Church and account for the widespread success of the Protestant Reformation.
4. What were the objectives of the Italian Humanists and why did this intellectual movement flourish when it did? What was it responding to and what did it generate in turn?
5. Discuss the nature of Christian kingship during the High Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period. How did this influence the kinds of power kings employed? Focus your answer around a specific example, i.e. Louis IX of France (ruled: 1226-1270) or King Henry VIII, King of England (ruled: 1509-1547).