

US Cultural and Intellectual History Prelim for
Examiners: Kathryn Oberdeck and David Roediger
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Please answer three of the following five questions. Best of luck.

1. What is the difference between the classical republicanism of the eighteenth century and the liberal republicanism of the nineteenth? In what ways were the religious ideas associated with the First and Second Great Awakenings related to ideologies of republicanism? How is the spread of market and consumer relations implicated in this shift? How are ideologies of race implicated? Discuss history and historiographical debate related to this topic.
2. Discuss the role of evangelical religion as a continuous, defining, but also contested thread in the history of American culture. Whose culture is evangelical Protestantism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? What are some of the key debates about this issue? What impact has evangelical religion had on such arenas as working class culture, feminism, slavery and anti-slavery, domesticity, reform, and popular culture?
3. "The problem of the Twentieth Century," wrote W.E.B. DuBois in 1903, "is the problem of the color line." According to historians of race in the U.S., what are some of the most important cultural practices that helped to produce this line? What other factors of American experience--regional difference, changing intellectual understandings of race, popular performances and consumer culture, and/or imperial ambitions, etc.--help account for DuBois's assessment, both for the 20th century and the centuries preceding? How have freedom movements originating within the communities of people of color defined by these lines challenged them?
4. What are some of the most important contending definitions--both intellectual and popular--of "culture" in general and "American culture" in particular emerging in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? How do these definitions address such ongoing questions as American exceptionalism; social divisions in American culture; or the emergence of a "civic religion"? What are some of the important historiographical debates on this topic?
5. We hear frequent calls for history addressing the roots of contemporary conservatism. What historical works of best illuminate the past of conservatism in the United States? What works best prepare us to understand conservative

movements of the recent past? What definitional and analytical problems does a search for "roots" present in this case? Is the history of conservatism relatively continuous or is it characterized by sharp breaks in the forms and even values of conservative movements?

What is the difference between the liberal republicanism of the late eighteenth century and the liberal individualism of the nineteenth century? In what ways did the religious ideas associated with the First Amendment and the American Revolution contribute to the development of a "public sphere" in the eighteenth century and how did this shift? How was the concept of "public sphere" discussed in history and political theory in the nineteenth century?

2. Viewing the rise of evangelical religion as a continuous, evolving, but also disrupted thread in the history of American culture. Whose culture is evangelical Protestantism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? What are some of the key debates about this issue? What impact has evangelical religion had on such areas as working class culture, feminism, slavery and anti-slavery, domesticity, reform, and popular culture?

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What are some of the most important conservative definitions of both intellectual and popular "culture" in general and "Western culture" in particular emerging in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? How do these definitions relate to the "public sphere" as a concept in American culture or the "public sphere" as a concept in European culture? What are some of the key debates about this topic?

2. How do you think the history of conservatism in the United States is best understood? What are the most important works of best conservative thought in the United States? What are the most important works of best liberal thought in the United States? How do you think the history of conservatism in the United States is best understood?

