



First Midterm Exam

HIST 118, Professor Caleb McDaniel

Spring 2013

Using the two hours allotted to you for this exam, write an essay that responds to **ONE** of the following prompts. Upload your essay as a Microsoft Word document or PDF to OWL-Space before the two-hour timer expires.

Choice A

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that public schools should integrate with “all deliberate speed,” but forty years later, affirmative action policies designed to aid integration were under fire. Given the early gains made by Civil Rights rulings and legislation, what caused the later setbacks to programs designed to redress racial inequality?

Choice B

Some have seen the sudden fall of Richard Nixon in the 1970s and the rapid rise of Ronald Reagan in the 1980s as evidence of a grassroots conservative backlash to the countercultural excesses and radical social movements of the 1960s. To what extent was the rise of modern-day conservatism a new response to the 1960s?

Important Notes

1. Your essay *must* draw on evidence collected from assigned readings and lectures in this course. While you *may* use prior knowledge or outside research if appropriate, these sources of evidence are not required, will not necessarily improve your grade, and *cannot* serve as substitutes for the use of evidence drawn from course materials.
2. Be sure to include a “Works Cited” list at the end that lists only and all of those readings and lectures you drew on in your essay.
3. Be as specific as possible both in your claims and in the evidence or information you use to support them. Limited generalizations, when well-founded in the evidence, are better than glittering generalities with little evidence to support them.
4. Be sure to read the prompt carefully and answer the question directly!