

History of New York City  
History 4712  
Midterm Prep  
Fall 2001

Structure of Exam:

The actual exam will consist of two parts. There will be NO CHOICES in either section.

Part I 50 Points 10 Identifications [5 points each]

Part II 50 Points 1 Essay

Possible Essays: [On the day of the exam, you will be presented with only ONE of these essays, and will have to answer that essay fully and completely.]

1. Discuss the origins of New York City, 1609-1860. Why did the Dutch choose New York City? How did the Dutch origins shape the future of the City? Make sure you bring into your answer geographical, political, and socioeconomic considerations.
2. What does the building of the Erie Canal reveal about politics, economy, and society of early New York?
3. Pick a neighborhood in New York City, perhaps one that you have visited on one of your walking tours for this class. If you were Jane Jacobs, how would you assess this neighborhood? What shaped the structure and character of the particular area you chose? Evaluate the principles outlined in Jacobs' book, and discuss her attitudes toward city planning.
4. By analyzing past urban problems and crises faced by the people of New York City, can you put in historical perspective the recent terrorist attack on the World Trade Center? You may wish to reflect upon specific city epidemics, fires, or other disasters, as well as subsequent efforts to rebuild the metropolis and make it more safe.
5. How do you explain the rise in infectious diseases in New York City in the 19th century? Be sure in your answer to address immigration / population issues and the problems of an expanding metropolis.
6. Why and how did New York play a central role in the American Revolution?

GOOD LUCK PREPARING!