

Final Examination Study Guide

FORMAT: The final examination will consist of three parts. Examinations should be written in ink. It is worth 25% of your grade in this course. The final examination is on Thursday 21 May, from 10:15 – 12:15 PM.

PART I (10 points each; 50 points total): You will be asked to answer 5 of 7 of the following questions pulled from lectures, discussions and readings. The best way to prepare is to be able to answer ALL of these questions.

1. What are the major aspects of an "advertisement"? Explain each component.
2. Restate Professor Sayegh's argument that consumer advertisements can be considered a form of politics, then provide a counterargument.
3. What does "the view from the bottom rail" mean and how is it reflected in historical scholarship as discussed in Professor Sayegh's lectures? How is that meaning exemplified in the chapter?
4. Using an example from the nationalist readings, explain how the "appeal to authority" (ethos) can be a fallacy.
5. Briefly relate the events of the Haymarket Riot and Massacre as explained by Professor Sayegh and explain the point of view in her story.
6. How can the reflective and manipulative hypotheses be used to analyze the news? Advertisements?
7. What is the meaning and significance of the chapter title "Where Trouble Comes"?
8. What is propaganda? How can the definition be used to explore argumentative technique?
9. What are the major aspects of nationalism, according to Professor Sayegh?
10. Using any film discussed in "Where Trouble Comes" EXCEPT *The Green Berets*, discuss how film uses and constructs history. Then explain how this differs from the task of the historian.
11. Given the evidence provided in lecture, refute the claim that news is fictionalized.
12. Explain the point of view in the ABC news special "The Fall of Communism." Who is the intended audience and how does this affect how the story is told?
13. Explain Michael Ignatieff's argument in "The Road to Nowhere."
14. What does "The View from the Bottom Rail" tell us about oral history, bias and interpretation?
15. Using the story of Susan Hamlin/Hamilton from "The View from the Bottom Rail" explain first the difficulties in getting at "the true story" and second the ways historians use this type of evidence.

PARTS II and III (25 points each; 50 points total): In this portion of the examination, I will provide brief excerpts (or images) from the advertisements, videos, or nationalist readings that you have encountered in this part of the course. In each part you will have a choice (but the choice will be from the same type of document—that is, two excerpts from the nationalist readings or two advertisements, or two quotes from the films—no mix-n-match here). In your answers, you are to critically analyze the passage / image and explain its meaning, its context and examine the argument it tries to put forth. This is an exercise to test your skills in understanding historical evidence and explanation.