

**Final Exam:
History of the United States to 1877**

Exam should be typed, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman. Do not email final exam. All final exams must be printed out and handed in during the scheduled final exam.

Identifications: Please answer *five* of *eight* identifications (one paragraph each).

Kansas Nebraska Act

Homestead Acts of 1862 and 1864

John Brown

“Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men”

Erie Canal

Species Circular

Thomas Durant

Black Codes

Essays: Please answer *two* the following *four* essay questions (two pages minimum for each essay)

1. Write an essay on the westward expansion of the United States in the 19th century. How did the US grow from a small agrarian nation to a continental agricultural and manufacturing power? What events led to the US involvement in the Mexican American War? How did the US deal with the Native American population during this expansion? What role did the slave debate play in the US’s westward expansion?
2. Write an essay on the spread of slavery and/or free labor in the early Republic. What were the principal arguments in defense of slavery? Why was there growing opposition to slavery? How did moral and ethical arguments for and against slavery conflict with or support the continuance or abolition of slavery. What divisions existed within the broader anti-slave faction in the US? What divisions existed between those that supported slavery?
3. Write an essay on the Civil War. Why couldn’t the dispute be settled legislatively rather than militarily? What were some of the economic factors that led to war? On what basis did the south claim the right to secede? How did Lincoln come to be elected president, and how did Lincoln lead the north during the war? How did the northern victory set the stage for the economic expansion of the US after the Civil War?
4. Write an essay on Reconstruction and Gilded Age. What measures were taken in the south after the Civil War that drove Republicans to embrace “radical Reconstruction”? With Slavery abolished, what were the issues that the north and south disagreed on concerning the newly emancipated slaves? What programs were instituted to transition freed slaves into their new

status as free people? Why did Mark Twain term the period the “Gilded Age”? How did the status of working people change with the growth of industrialization?