

Midterm Exam

Atlanta '07

Preparation Guide

Spring 2007

Description

With this exam you should demonstrate your familiarity with the program material. This includes books, articles, films, and lectures up through and including Friday, May 11th.

The goal of this exam is to produce a written discussion of the program material that begins to synthesize what we have covered thus far this quarter.

A successful exam needs to be concrete and well-grounded in the program materials. This means you will need to 1) discuss who or what the identification item is, when it occurred and especially why it is significant and 2) carefully think through a way to frame and focus your essays so as to allow for a well-developed and plausible theme.

Throughout the exam you should do your best to refer to as many program sources as possible. This should include all books and some of the various articles, handouts, films and lectures.

You can work with other students in the program to prepare for the exam by brainstorming, dialoguing, and studying for the midterm, but on the day of the exam you must write your own exam. It must contain your work and your thinking.

The Midterm Exam

All students will take the midterm exam Tuesday, May 15th from 2-4 PM in Sem2 E 1107.

You will not be able to use any notes or books during the exam.

We recommend taking 30 minutes for the identification section and 45 minutes for each essay.

Make up exams will be given only in the most extreme extenuating conditions.

Identification Items

On the exam you will be presented with a selection of twelve of the following items. You will need to explain ten of those twelve by writing down who or what it is, when it existed/acted, and why it is significant. Use about 25-50 words to describe each item. You must be prepared to discuss:

Charter of Principles
Keynesian Economics
GATT/WTO/IMF/WB
“Only those who give up their history are consigned to oblivion”
“...a horizontal construction of innumerable collective actors.”
NAFTA/FTAA/MAI
EZLN
Tobin Tax
Grand Army of Starvation
La CNTe
KOL, AFL, IWW, CIO, AFL-CIO
Operation Dixie
COINTELPRO
The “ejido” land system
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Social Reform
“crisis of democracy”
Social Wage
FEZs
Civil Society
Meaning work
CMC
KWRU
Automation/Deindustrialization
The Accord
MST
Mumbai Resistance
Popular Education

Possible Essay Questions

On the exam you will be presented with a selection of three of the following six questions. You will need to write an essay for two of those three. You should spend some time outlining your essay and thinking of concrete examples from program texts. You might also save some time for proofreading at the end.

- 1) The Seattle WTO protests are cited by numerous authors as critical to the formation of the current “anti-globalization” movement. Utilizing your knowledge of the Smith, Teeple and della Porta and referencing their texts, analyze the significance of the Seattle protests in terms of the “subterranean fire”, the “decline of social reform” and the “globalization from below.”
- 2) Citing program texts, lectures and videos, discuss the main components of neo-liberalism and their effects on the class structure and social order of US society.
- 3) Citing program texts, lectures and videos, discuss the main components of social movements and their strengths and weaknesses in confronting the U.S. system of capitalism. What are some of the strategies and tactics required to confront the US system of capitalism.
- 4) The relationship of social forums to social movements is a central question in our program. We’ve studied the WSF and its I.C. organizational members and the US Social Forum and its NPC. Referencing texts, lectures, strategy games and videos, What ideas from our texts and program materials would you use to guide the organization and outcomes of the USSF in Atlanta.
- 5) Luis J. Rodriguez recited a poem in which he used the phrase, “toil allowed to rot”, in referencing the displaced, dislocated and unwanted worker that is constituting a new “social class.” In his writings, he mentioned the need for art, spirituality, rituals, elders and purpose to stem the violence in society. If you were to construct a social movement to stem the violence in society, how would you use his concepts in its creation.
- 6) Referencing texts, lectures, strategy games and videos, what are some of the solutions to the various social and economic problems that have been discussed over the quarter?

Program Material

Books

- Leite, José Corrêa, in collaboration with Carolina Gil. *World Social Forum: strategies of resistance*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2005.
- Popular Education for Movement Building, Volume II*. Edited by Dan Horowitz de Garcia, et al. Atlanta, GA: Project South, Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide, 2001.
- Smith, Sharon. *Subterranean Fire: a history of working-class radicalism in the United States*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2006.
- Teeple, Gary. *Globalization and the decline of social reform*. Highlands, NJ: Humanities Press, 1995.
- della Porta, Donatella, et. al. *Globalization from below: transnational activists and protest networks*. Minneapolis: UMP, 2006.

Articles, etc.

- “Introducing MR2004” & “Why MR 2004” by The International League of Peoples Struggles
- “The Economics and Politics of the World Social Forum ” by The Research Unit for Political Economy
- “The Road to Atlanta” by Michael Leon Guerrero, Tammy Bang Luu, Cindy Wiesner
- NPC Minutes
- Selections from *Hearts and Hands* by Luis Rodriquez.
- "On the Poor Organizing the Poor" by Willie Baptist
- Observations on the Root Cause March
- A Talk on March to Miami
- Also Handouts, lectures, notes, etc.

Films

- This is What Democracy Looks Like*
- Another World is Possible*
- 1877: The Grand Army of Starvation*
- Granito de Arena*
- Poverty Outlaw & Battle for Broad*
- Driving it Home*
- Black and Gold*
- Selections *Ethnic Notions & Birth of a Nation*.