The midterm exam for this course will take place on Monday, October 21. It will cover material in lectures/discussion up to Friday, October, 18, the textbook by Merry Wiesner-Hanks up to page 251, and the document collections by Bell and Baylor.

The exam will consist of two parts: a series of short essays/long definitions that focus on individual key concepts of the course and a longer essay question that asks you to draw themes together. The two parts will be weighed equally in the overall exam grade. I will draw all questions on the exam from this study sheet.

The exam is designed to last the entire class period. It will be a closed book exam. Blue Books will be provided.

Part I – Definitions

I will select ten terms from the following list and ask you to identify six of them. Explain what the term means and why it is of particular significance to Europe between 1400-1600. I expect your answers to be more detailed than a single sentence, but it need not be more than a paragraph.

Great Schism  Machiavelli  Henry the Navigator
Humanism  Guilds  Hundred Years War
Manorial System  Three Estates  Donatello
Ferdinand Magellan  Columbian Exchange  Martin Luther
Erasmus  Confessionalization  Diet of Worms
Peace of Augsburg 1555  Calvinism  Henry VIII
Dutch Revolt  Gutenberg  Henry IV
Council of Trent  Trace Italienne  Peasants War

Part II – Essay

I will select two questions from the following list and ask you write on one of them. These questions are broad enough that you should take more than a paragraph or two to answer them. Effective answers will draw in specific information from lectures and/or the books.

Questions:

1. Explain the Renaissance. What was it? How did it develop? Why did it develop where it did?
2. In lecture, we spent a fair amount of time discussing how localized most people’s experiences were. What impact did that have on how political power was exercised?

3. To what extent would you say that the period 1400-1600 is characterized by rapid change? In what area of life/society/politics do you think change is most dramatic? Give concrete examples of changes to support your conclusion.

4. Compare and contrast the major European countries Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Austria between 1400 and 1600. How similar are they? What differences were significant enough to affect how they developed during this era?

5. What was the Reformation? To what extent was it a spiritual movement and to what extent was it a political movement?