SIX of the questions below will appear on the exam and you will be asked to write on two of them. Your essay should respond to the prompt directly, using specific examples and evidence to support your arguments. Try to avoid exaggeration and generalizations. Draw on the lectures and on the readings. We expect each essay to be approximately five paragraphs long, with a proper introduction and conclusion. (two essays; 35% each)

1. What are cowries and what do we learn about money and history by studying them?

2. Are special-use currencies indicative of a primitive economy? Support your answer with at least two specific examples.

3. How is money’s function in a moral economy different from its place in a market economy?

4. What role has religion played in the history of money?

5. During the twelfth century, land-rents in many parts of Europe were converted from in-kind or work obligations to monetary payments. How were people affected by this transformation?

6. Starting in the sixteenth century, large quantities of silver have been exported from South and Central America. Discuss the international effects of these exports.

7. What made the First and Second National Banks of the United States so controversial?

8. Describe the social, political, cultural, and historical effects of inflation.

9. What was the Great Depression and how was it related to the 1929 stock market crash?

10. What were the goals of the Bretton Woods System? To what extent could they be met?

11. How have political revolutions affected money?

12. In the 1970s, Friedrich Hayek argued for “choice in currency” (in other words, that everyone should be free to use whatever money s/he liked). Using historical examples, explain your own position on this question.