

Master of Arts in History and Political Thought Comprehensive Exam Contract

Subject Content of the Comprehensive Exam: The comprehensive exam covers substantive and integrative knowledge from students' coursework in History and Political Science. The comprehensive exam is required of all students choosing the non-thesis option.

Requirements to Qualify for the Comprehensive Exam: Graduate students must have completed (not in progress) at least 24 SCH and must have already completed the two core courses: HIST 5380 – Historiography and PSCI 5370 – Political and Historical Thought.

Preparation for the Comprehensive Exam: At or near the beginning of the semester in which the exam will be taken, graduate students are strongly encouraged to make appointments with professors on their comprehensive exam faculty committee to discuss how best to complete the comprehensive exam requirements.

Format and Grading of the Comprehensive Exam: To complete the comprehensive exam requirement, students will do two things: (1) revise and expand an existing seminar paper drawn from any graduate course taken in the program into a more polished product (20-25 pages), and (2) write a literature review (15-20 pages) that covers a core set of texts chosen by the student's comprehensive exam faculty committee chair.

Each member of the examination committee is expected to evaluate the student's performance on the basis of the examination as a whole, not just on a particular area of questioning or their own field of specialization. It is the prerogative of the faculty committee to request further written or oral examination on a particular topic. The committee grades the exam on a pass/fail basis; there is also the option to award a pass with distinction. The chair delivers the opinion of the committee to the student. A student who fails to pass one or more components of the exam will be allowed one opportunity to repeat and pass the exam. Exams will be given each long semester.

Comprehensive exam grades are sent to the Department Chair no later than 5:00pm on the day before the final grades for graduating candidates are due to the Registrar's office (date varies).

Chair's Additional Guidelines (e.g., timeline for progress throughout the semester):

MAHPT Graduate Student: _____ Date: _____

Comprehensive Exam Chair: _____ Date: _____