

ANCIENT HISTORY

PHD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

1. Expectations for students taking the oral examination in the major field

The chair of the field will serve as the examination committee chair and the entire Ancient field (as well as co-operating faculty from other fields) usually will be present for the examination.

The major field examination will consist of two parts. The first is designed to demonstrate a good overall command of Greek and Roman history (sufficient to teach ancient history survey courses); the second is meant to show greater expertise in an area of more specific interest (see below). Each part will last up to forty-five (45) minutes.

The first part will focus upon the events, themes and scholarly debates that make up a general understanding of Greek and Roman political, social, and cultural history, and which are necessary for teaching survey courses in the field. At the beginning of the examination the student will submit a syllabus for a two-semester survey course of Greek history (the first semester) and Roman history (the second semester), complete with lecture topics and student readings week by week. This syllabus will provide a starting point for questions in this part of the exam, though discussion will go beyond the syllabus itself.

The student will have some choice as to the exact periods covered by the syllabus and in this part of the examination. For Greek history, each student is expected to cover the period from c. 800-323 BC. In addition, he/she must also cover EITHER the Minoan/Mycenaean period and the following Dark Age (c. 2500-c. 800 BC) OR the Hellenistic age (323-31 BC). For Roman history, each student is expected to cover the period from 509 BC – 476 AD. In addition, he/she must also cover EITHER pre-Republican Rome and Italy (c. 1000-509 BC) OR the late antique Mediterranean world (476-642 AD).

The second part of the major field examination will focus upon a broad topical theme relevant to the student's potential dissertation project (e.g. late antique intellectual culture; fourth-century BC Greek rhetoricians). In consultation with his/her supervisor, the student should assemble a relevant bibliography, supplemented by a list of relevant ancient sources. These lists should be approved by the supervisor at least six (6) weeks prior to the exam. It is expected that during the exam the student will demonstrate the feasibility of the topic as an area of research and also its attractiveness as a possible theme for an upper level undergraduate course.

2. Expectations for students taking the oral examination in the inside minor field

One ancient history faculty member will be on the examination committee for the inside minor field. The student will choose either a chronological or thematic area of interest from Greco-Roman antiquity. This can include a period of time (e.g. the Peloponnesian War, the Later Roman Empire) or a theme (e.g. early Christianity, ancient cultural history) that is relevant to his/her major field. The student will then be expected to develop a relevant bibliography in consultation with his/her ancient history examiner.

Students wishing to do ancient history as a minor field should meet with a relevant ancient history faculty member at least three (3) months prior to the date of the examination.

3. Guidelines for the prospectus

The dissertation prospectus shall consist of a 3000-5000 word historiographical essay on the proposed dissertation topic. This should clearly state the central question that will be examined. The student should also indicate the most important source materials that are relevant to the study, as well as the current scholarship on the topic. Finally, the student must explain why his/her approach will be a significant addition to the field.

ANCIENT HISTORY LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

For PhD students in ancient history, proficiency is required in FOUR languages: Greek, Latin, German, and either French or Italian. Substitutions for any of these languages are possible with approval of the student's advisor and field chair. The modern language proficiency requirements, with certification of reading knowledge, can be completed at any time before student has completed the qualifying examination and dissertation proposal defense. The ancient languages will follow a separate schedule of examinations:

— Upon entrance into the program, each student will take a competency assessment test in both ancient languages (a dictionary will be allowed for each). Results will be used solely to prioritize elements of the student's course of study.

— Second, as part of the normal third semester review, students will take a Greek OR Latin language examination administered by the field committee (student's choice which language; dictionary allowed) and must achieve a passing grade to be invited to continue in the program.

— Finally, all students will take comprehensive ancient language examinations administered by the field committee by the end of the semester prior to their taking their Qualifying Examinations. Both ancient languages will be tested; no dictionaries will be allowed. In preparation for these examinations students will have submitted at least three months earlier a list of ancient readings to be completed in the original language. (See below on the reading list.) Students must pass these examinations before moving on to the dissertation.

GREEK AND LATIN READING LIST

The following is a suggested minimum list which students will be expected to have read in the original languages before the comprehensive translation examinations. Substitutions for items in the standard lists given below are not only acceptable, but strongly encouraged, since the particular sources read in the original languages should be determined by a student's courses taken and research interests. Before taking the comprehensive translation examinations, the student should have completed reading a substantial proportion of both of the following sets of texts (or the modified list of texts approved in advance by the student's advisor). In selecting passages for translation, however, the examiners are not obliged to confine themselves solely to the works that the student has listed.

Greek Readings

Greek historians

Herodotus: Book 1

Thucydides: Book 1

Others (e.g., Xenophon, Polybius, Diodorus, Josephus, Arrian, Dio): one book

Greek orators (e.g., Aeschines, Andocides, Antiphon, Demosthenes, Isocrates,

Lysias, Libanius, Themistius, Gregory of Nazianzus): two speeches.

Greek playwrights (e.g., Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Euripides, Sophocles, Menander)
one comedy, one tragedy

Homer: one book of the *Iliad* or *Odyssey*

Plato: Apology

Aristotle: *Athenaion Politeia*

Plutarch: one Greek or Roman life

Theodoret: *Life of Simeon Stylites*

Inscriptions: several selected from R. Meiggs and D. Lewis, *A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions*, Rhodes and Osborne, *Greek Historical Inscriptions* or a similar collection.

Latin Readings

Historians

Caesar: one book from *De Bello Gallico* or from the *Bellum Civile*

Livy: one book (e.g., I or XXI)

Sallust: Jugurtha or Catiline

Tacitus: one book from Annals or the Histories, or the Germania or the Agricola

Others (e.g., *Historia Augusta*, Ammianus Marcellinus): one book/emperor

Cicero: one oration and a few letters

Suetonius: one life

Vergil: one book of the Aeneid

Jerome: one hagiographical work

Augustine: *Confessions*, Book 4.

Inscriptions: several selected from H. Dessau, *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae* or a similar collection.