

Comprehensive Examination Process

Department of Modern Languages, UL Lafayette

Written Examinations are scheduled in the fourth week of the semester. Oral exams will follow two to three weeks later. Answers to the exam questions should be between six and eight pages in length.

Examinations are administered in areas in which the student has completed at minimum one course prior to the beginning of the examination period, i.e., no student may take an exam in an area in which he or she is currently taking a course, unless that area has been covered by prior coursework.

MA students take exams in three areas: one exam in French literature and two exams in Francophone regions and/or fields such as folklore, linguistics, *bandes dessinées*, and cinema.

PhD students take exams in three areas, two of which must be new areas. When combined with the areas covered in the MA exams, the student will complete no fewer than two exams in French literature and three exams in Francophone regions and/or fields such as folklore, linguistics, *bandes dessinées*, and cinema. If a student takes an exam in an area previously covered on the MA exams, he or she must have completed another course in the area since the MA exams. Students who entered the PhD program with an MA from another institution must take exams in five areas: two exams in French literature and three exams in Francophone regions and/or fields such as folklore, linguistics, *bandes dessinées*, and cinema.

After completion of the written exam week, professors will confer to evaluate the students' written exams prior to scheduling orals. Students will only take oral exams in areas in which they have satisfactorily answered the written component. If a student does not successfully complete a written exam in one or more areas, that student will be required to retake the area(s) with a different question during a later examination period, under the same conditions as all other students (4 hours). Once the student has successfully completed the written part(s) of the exam, the oral for that (those) area(s) will be scheduled.

Upon successful completion of the comprehensive oral exam, Ph.D. students must prepare their Prospectus of the Dissertation, in consultation with their direction. The Prospectus must include at minimum a workable topic for the scope of the dissertation, a clearly defined thesis to be examined, an explanation of the critical approach(es) that will be used, and a bibliography of primary and secondary sources. The student must be ready to present and defend his or her Prospectus within one month of completion of the oral exam. The dissertation committee, and not the examination committee, will attend the Prospectus defense and either accept the Prospectus or require revision to the Prospectus before acceptance.

If an MA student passes only one area, he or she will not have an oral examination until the other two areas have been successfully completed. If a PhD student passes fewer than three areas, he or she will not have an oral until all areas are successfully completed.

If a student fails a part of the exam twice, he or she will be no longer be eligible to continue in the program after completion of the current semester.

Retake examinations will be administered during the eleventh week of classes. The oral exam will follow during the twelfth week of classes.