

Qualifying Exam Contract

Modern European History (Europe since 1700)

Student: _____

Committee Members:

1) Advisor _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) Outside member* _____

*The outside member of the committee must be a member of the UK graduate faculty from outside of the Department of History.

Qualifying Exams

The qualifying examination is designed to test a student's knowledge in broadly defined fields of study. Students in Modern European history will be examined in three fields:

- 1) A major field that is chronologically defined. This field often examines the history of one European country in depth, covering approximately a century of history and sometimes more. In the case of students writing comparative and thematic dissertations, it may include a study of more than one European country during a 50-100 year chronological period.
- 2) A second field that has chronological and topical breadth. This field may be defined comparatively and it may draw upon the student's readings in a thematic concentration. It often examines broad themes of European History over a period of longer than a century.
- 3) A third (allied) field that can be defined in one of the following ways: (a) geographically outside Europe; (b) chronologically before 1700 but within Europe; (c) comparatively or within a thematic concentration, with the understanding that substantial aspects of the readings will be in non- European areas; (d) in a discipline outside of History

For a major field in modern Europe, we expect doctoral students to read both in their graduate classes and on their own approximately 100 books and/or equivalent articles and book chapters. For the two additional fields, students should expect to read approximately 50 books or equivalent articles/book chapters in graduate seminars or independently. Students will work with members of the faculty to determine reading lists that best suit their intellectual goals and objectives.

Typically, each of the fields will be examined via a full day (7 hour) written examination in each of the three fields.

The qualifying examination concludes with an oral examination of the three fields. Students must take the preparation for the qualifying exams seriously. They constitute a major step toward earning a doctoral degree. The faculty expect students to engage in extensive reading and preparation and to demonstrate a command of historical detail and of scholarly debates. At the same time, the faculty realize that it is impossible to acquire a comprehensive or an exhaustive knowledge of a broadly conceived field of study.

Normally, to prepare for the exams, students take extensive course work at the graduate level and also pursue extensive reading on their own. Students should work out precise reading lists for each field with the members of the qualifying exam committee. Students are encouraged to share reading lists and to form study groups. Some committees will ask to meet periodically with the student to assess progress.

Qualifying Exam Contract Meeting

This meeting is held to:

- 1) Verify that the student has satisfied all pre-exam requirements (or will have satisfied these requirements).
- 2) Select an exam period: (August 15-September 15 or January).
- 3) Define the specialty field and the third field.
- 4) Discuss how the student should prepare for the various fields. This might mean advising the student about additional readings seminars or it might mean discussing the construction of a reading list. Committee members may prepare lists of readings or they may ask the student to submit a list that the committee member will review and approve. Reading lists should be constructed shortly after the contract meeting.
- 5) Determine the length of the exam (4-7 hours).
- 6) Establish expectations about the general nature of the questions that will be asked and how the questions should be answered.

Pre-Quals Checklist

Candidates may sit for the qualifying exam only after first having earned an MA in History and after they have:

- 1) demonstrated sufficient knowledge of one or more foreign languages to conduct research in the major field;
- 2) taken History 606 (unless waived by the DGS);
- 3) removed all incomplete grades;
- 4) taken History 628;
- 5) earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher in eight 600- and 700-level seminars taken at the University of Kentucky. These will typically include History 606 and 628. Independent study courses – History 695 – may **not** take the place of a seminar. At least two of the eight courses must be 700-level research seminars.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____

Fields:

1) Major Field: _____

Exam (length): _____

Examiner(s): _____

Recommendations for preparation:

2) Second Field:

Examiner(s): _____

Recommendations for preparation:

3) Third Field: _____

Exam (length): _____

Examiner: _____

Recommendations:

EXAM DATE: _____

Sign:

Student _____

Faculty Advisor _____

DGS _____

Date: _____