

Qualifying Exam Contract

Pre-Modern and Early Modern Europe

Student: _____

Committee Members:

1) Advisor _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) Outside member* _____

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

Qualifying Exams

The "quals" are a student's antepenultimate hoop before attaining the Ph.D. (with the dissertation prospectus and the dissertation to follow). The reading lists of field examiners may seem daunting, but if one approaches them systematically they are not only doable, but the most important learning experience of one's professional life. It is the "quals" process that (hopefully) will establish the intellectual foundations in a field and create the links between methods, sources and scholars that can transform atomized bits of information and interpretation into a coherent whole. The thoughtful consideration of the reading lists can define the questions and methods that scholarly consensus considers primary and compel the systematic critique of those assumptions. To this end, course work and linguistic tool acquisition fit into a pattern of preparing for the qualifying examinations, but ultimately, the reading lists are the highest hurdle in preparing for the examinations. This contract is designed to systematize and formalize these three facets of a student's progress toward the qualifying examinations.

Students in pre-/ early modern European history will have exams in four fields: a major history field and two allied fields (that would likely, but not necessarily, be historical) and fourth field either in another discipline (Classics, Philosophy, Hispanic Studies, etc.) or a non-Western history field (e.g., Middle East). Each history field will have its own list, consisting of no more than 150 titles and tailored in some degree to the interests of the student. The major history field should include a "specialty area" that addresses a student's interest in a potential dissertation topic. The specialty area should include a strong thematic emphasis as well as a chronological one such as Roman history and legal history or Byzantine history and Greek hagiography). Such specialty areas are arranged between the major field advisor and the student. The history fields that are presently offered are:

- Rome
- Early Christian Thought and Literature: ca. 100-450
- Late Antique/Byzantine
- Early Medieval
- Later Medieval
- Early Modern Europe
- Early Modern World

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 and outside fields.
- 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 either prepare a reading list or they may ask the student to submit a list which the committee member will review and approve. Reading lists should be constructed within 60 days of the contract meeting.
- 5) 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) completed History 606 (unless waived by the DGS);
- 2) removed all incomplete grades;
- 3) completed History 705 twice (for entering Ph.D. students) or three times (for entering M.A. students);
- 4) completed 6 hours of graduate-level language courses in each primary source language:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
- 5) passed required language examinations in the necessary modern and primary source languages:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____

6) earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher in eight 600- and 700-level seminars (including His 606) at the University of Kentucky. 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: _____

Specialty Area: _____

Examiner:

Recommendations for preparation:

2.Allied Field: _____

Examiner:

Recommendations for preparation:

3.Allied Field: _____

Examiner:

Recommendations for preparation:

4. Outside Field: _____

Examiner:

Recommendations for preparation:

EXAM DATE: _____

Student: _____

Faculty Advisor: _____

DGS: _____

Date: _____