

PROCEDURES & TIMELINE FOR CE EXAM (Eng 896)

I. OVERVIEW

Description. Written and oral examination on texts in three fields of the discipline based on departmental reading lists and student's special area of interest. Note: Candidates who have selected the THESIS OPTION (Eng 898) as their CE project may NOT switch to the EXAM OPTION (Eng 896) EXCEPT UPON ADVISEMENT.

Eng 896 is NOT OPEN TO M.A. CANDIDATES SELECTING THESIS OPTION (Eng 898)

Fields. Students enrolled in ENG 896 will be required to read in three different fields of their own choosing within the discipline. One of the three fields must be pre-1800.

Two of the three fields are to be chosen from the following list of historical fields:

Medieval
Early Modern
American Colonial to Early Republic
18th C British
19th C American
19th C British
19th C Transatlantic
20th & 21st C American
20th & 21st C British
20th & 21st C Global

For the third field, a student selects either another historical field from the above list *or* a field, topic, or theme of the student's design (e.g., Drama and Performance Studies, Narrative Theory). If the third field is of the student's design, he or she will produce both a rationale for that field and a reading list of primary and secondary texts, in consultation with a faculty member willing to supervise and examine the student in that field.

Textbooks/reading assignments: A list of the required readings for each historical field will be kept on file in the Department. For each field, students will select 20 texts from a list of 30 primary texts and 5 texts from a list of 10 works of criticism. The students' CE exam, then, will be based on a total of 60 primary texts and 15 works of criticism.

Written assignment. For each of their 3 fields, students will submit a 5 to 6-page written assignment produced in consultation with the faculty member examining the student that field. (Students will thus produce three 5 to 6-page written assignments, one for each field, or 15-18 pages total of writing.) Students must submit all three of their written assignments to all three of their examiners by **November 1**, if they are taking exam in the fall, or by **April 1**, if they are taking exam in the spring. The specific assignment for the written assignment in each field is to be determined by the examiner in that field. The assignment should be drawn from one of the following options:

- A response to a specific **research** question posed by the examiner, incorporating at least 6 works from that field's reading list
- An integrative/synthesis essay, calling upon the candidate to provide a critical integration or synthesis of the 6 works from that field's list. The synthesis might be thematic, structural, analytic, theoretical etc. in nature **and include contextual research.**

- A “quotation collage” **researched** from at least 12 texts from that field’s reading list. In addition to a list of quotations, students will provide a short (2-3 page) narrative explaining why the particular quotes have been chosen and their relation to one another.

Procedure for Oral Examination. Course culminates in a 90-minute examination. The written part of the exam must be successfully completed before the oral exam can be given. The exam will be conducted by three faculty members who will each examine the student in one of their three chosen fields. Each faculty member will have 25 minutes to conduct their portion of the exam; the remaining 15 minutes to be used for deliberation. Examination should take place around the 14th week of the semester.

Advising. All committees and field designations are made by through the Graduate Literature Coordinator. Faculty examiners will be determined by the Graduate Coordinator, according to student’s need and faculty member’s availability. Students do not request or approach specific faculty to be examiners, except in the case of a self-designed field, as noted above.

Evaluation. CR/NCR. To receive Credit for Eng 896, students must pass all three sections of the CE Examination. It is up to each field examiner to determine a passing or failing grade for his or her field. A student who fails *one* of the three fields of the CE Examination may retake that *one* exam within the two weeks following the Oral (if the Oral is given by the 14th week); a committee of two faculty members, to be appointed by the Graduate Coordinator, will conduct the exam. The student who fails *two or more* fields of the Exam may retake the *entire* Exam for Credit the following semester.

Assessment of a students’ performance on each section of the exam will be based on their having satisfactorily met the following learning goals:

- To read broadly in two different historical fields and a special field of study
- To have basic knowledge of major elements of texts selected for examination, such as plot, character, thematic issues, philosophical theories, critical argumentative claims
- To prepare verbally, in consultation with faculty members on the exam committee, to discuss the importance of the exam texts to literary studies, demonstrating mastery of oral argument
- To prepare written answers to examiner-selected questions that focus on synthesizing knowledge from various exam texts and analyzing details of those texts within a given exam field
- To participate in a culminating oral exam conducted by the three examiners, demonstrating both a breadth of knowledge of literary, theoretical, and/or critical texts selected at the start of the course, as well as analytical insight into how those works can be compared and contrasted to each other to constitute a field of knowledge.

II. TIMELINE

Semester Before Examination

1. Student submits CE proposal form and ATC by department & university deadlines
2. Student identifies **3 fields** and submits them to the Graduate Coordinator. If applicable, at the same time, student submits written rationale for 3rd field and identifies advisor willing to supervise and examine the student in that field (see description of “Fields” above).
3. Graduate coordinator provides students with reading lists and assigns faculty examiners.
4. Students meet with examiners to determine reading lists, obtain exam questions, and generate a study plan.

Semester of Examination

1. Student enrolls in Eng 896

2. Student works with advisors to prepare for and schedule examination
3. Students prepare written assignment and for oral examination, meeting periodically with examiners in each field
4. **November 1** (Fall) or **April 1** (Spring): student submits written part of the exam to examiners. The written part of the exam must be successfully completed before the oral examination can be given.
5. Student takes examination around the 14th week of semester