

PROCEDURES & TIMELINE FOR CE EXAM (Eng 896)

I. OVERVIEW

Description. Written and oral examination on texts in two fields of the discipline based on departmental reading lists. 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).

The exam MUST be taken in the semester the student is enrolled in Eng 896. No grace semesters will be granted except in the case of a documented emergency.

Fields. Students enrolled in ENG 896 will be required to read in two different fields of their own choosing within the discipline.

The two 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

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 25 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 50 primary texts and 10 works of criticism.

Written assignment. In both 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 two 5 to 6-page written assignments, one for each field, or 10-12 pages total of writing.) Students must submit both of their written assignments to both 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 portion of the exam 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 quotations have been chosen and their relation to one another.

Procedure for Oral Examination. The 896 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 two faculty members who will each examine the student in one of their two chosen fields. Each faculty member will have 35 minutes to conduct their portion of the exam, with the remaining 20 minutes to be used for deliberation. The oral 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.

Pre-exam meeting. During the semester *before* the semester a student is scheduled to take the exam, the student and both examiners will meet to 1) discuss the reading lists and the student’s rationale for the texts he or she has chosen; 2) determine the type(s) of written assignment; and 3) set up a procedure and schedule for mentoring.

Evaluation. CR/NCR. To receive Credit for Eng 896, students must pass both 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 or both fields of the CE Examination must retake the failed sections of the exam within (and not to exceed) 20 semester days (counted M-F). A student who fails *one* section of the exam, need only retake the failed section, but both examiners must be present.

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
- 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 two 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 **2 fields** and submits them to the Graduate Coordinator.
3. Graduate coordinator provides students with reading lists and assigns faculty examiners.
4. Students and examiners hold exam meeting to discuss reading lists, writing assignments, and mentoring procedure.

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 both 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