

American Studies Ph.D. Comprehensive Examinations (January 2015)

Scheduling:

- Students will take comprehensive examinations during the first week in February (second year for those who enter with an M.A., third year for those who enter with a B.A.). The Director of Graduate Studies will post the specific dates on the department website the previous October.
 - No later than Monday (February 2 in 2015)
 - Students submit professional portfolios to advisory committee (and upload a copy to the “AMST PhD dissertation prospectus” Sakai site).
 - Faculty members composing the American Studies major field exam and Chairs of students’ advisory committees provide the exams to the Director of Graduate Studies.
 - Wednesday (February 4 in 2015)—American Studies major field written examination
 - Friday (February 6 in 2015)—students’ individual minor field written examinations
- Within two weeks after the second written examination (February 20 in 2015)—90-minute oral examination on professional portfolio and both written exams.

Exam Structure and Procedure:

- Each of the written examinations will last three hours.
- The American Studies major field examination will ordinarily be devised and graded by the two professors who taught AMST 700 and 701 or 702 to that cohort and will consist of four questions, two covering AMST 700, two covering AMST 701 or 702. Students will choose one from each category to answer.
- The minor field written exam will consist of no more than six questions, usually two submitted by each member of the student’s advisory committee. The advisory committee chair will solicit questions from the other members and constitute the exam with no more than three questions in each of two groups. Students will choose one from each group to answer.
- The advisory committee chairs and AMST 700 and 701/702 professors will provide the examinations to the Director of Graduate Studies no later than the Monday of the examination week.
- The Director of Graduate Studies, assisted by the Graduate Programs Assistant, will be responsible for distributing the examinations to the students, collecting their answers, and returning the answers to the advisory committee chairs and AMST 700 and 701/702 professors. The exams will be made available to the students via Sakai, email, or other electronic or web-based medium.
- Each student may take the exam during any three-hour period convenient for him or her during the appointed day (8 am to 8 am) and at a place of their own choosing. The examination is closed book.

- The student is responsible for scheduling his or her oral examination, which is to take place within two weeks of the date of the minor field exam (February 20 in 2015). The examining committee consists of the three-person advisory committee, the dissertation chair (only if different from the advisory committee chair), and one of the professors who wrote the American Studies major field exam. The Director of Graduate Studies will consult with the faculty members responsible for the American Studies exam and assign one to each student's oral examination.
- At the time of the oral exam (if not completed earlier) the committee fills in the first part of the Report of Doctoral Committee Composition form: <http://gradschool.unc.edu/pdf/wdcomm.pdf>. (The form will be kept by the Graduate Program Assistant until the full dissertation committee is ready to add the names of additional members and sign the second part to indicate approval of defended full dissertation prospectus.)
- After the oral exam the advisory committee chair informs the Director of Graduate Studies of the outcome of the exam and signs parts I and II of the Doctoral Exam Report form: <http://gradschool.unc.edu/pdf/wdexam.pdf>. (The form will be kept by the Graduate Program Assistant until the full dissertation committee is ready to sign parts III and IV at the time of the dissertation defense and dissertation submission.)