

Modern Europe History

PHD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

All modern Europe inside major and inside minor field students should have taken the H620 19th and 20th c. series or equivalent.

1. Expectations for students taking the oral exam in the major field

The major-field exam committee will consist of two members from the Modern Europe Field. The student will prepare three areas in Modern Europe for the first-field part of the examination. The first of these will consist of a general survey of Western Europe from 1815 to the present. The student should have a working knowledge of the period of the sort needed to teach an undergraduate survey. The second and third areas will focus on more specific areas of interest to the student and might be geographical, chronological, and/or thematic (e.g. economic history, France since 1870, European Women's history in the 20th century). We imagine of course that the specific areas will provide background for the student's dissertation research. The student should discuss these three areas with the two first-field committee members well in advance of the exam and should in any case have submitted an agreed-upon bibliography for each of the three no later than six weeks prior to the exam. Although there may be variations, it is our intention that the student discuss/develop the survey area and bibliography with both committee members and the specific areas and bibliographies one with each of them. At the examination the examiners will focus on the material agreed upon, but are free to go beyond it as the situation warrants.

2. Expectations for students taking the oral exam in the inside minor field

The inside-minor-field exam committee will consist of two members from the Modern Europe Field. The student is expected to demonstrate a general survey knowledge of Western Europe from 1815 to the present. The student should have a working preparation for that period of the sort needed to teach an undergraduate survey. The student should discuss the exam and its preparation with the two committee members well in advance of the exam and should in any case have submitted an agreed-upon bibliography no later than six weeks prior to the exam. Although there may be variations, it is our intention that the student discuss/develop the survey area and bibliography with both committee members. At the examination the examiners will focus on the material agreed upon, but are free to go beyond it as the situation warrants.

3. Guidelines for the prospectus

The student's dissertation prospectus usually will take the form of a significant grant proposal (such as the Fulbright-Hays doctoral dissertation abroad grant proposal). The proposal should be 10-15 pages in length, define a research question and discuss relevant secondary literatures, methodologies, and sources to be consulted. It also should include a comprehensive bibliography.