

Comparison of Quarter (“Three Fields”) vs. Semester (“Two Fields”) Comprehensive Examination Requirements

Quarter Program (“3 fields”)

Fields: *Select three of the following:*

Africa
Asia
Europe: Ancient
Europe: Medieval
Europe: Modern
Latin America: Colonial
Latin America: Modern
Middle East
U.S.: Colonial/Early Republic
U.S.: Modern

500-level courses: at least one in each of the three fields

Examiners: One or two for each field

Workload Expectations:

- For each field, the exam essays should total between 20 and 30 typed, double-spaced pages combined. Specific guidelines for each exam will be set by the field examiner(s).
- Topics and reading lists must be approved by the field examiners no later than week one of the quarter in which the student registers for the comprehensive exam.

Semester Program (“2 fields”)

Fields: *Select one major field and one minor field from among the following:*

Africa
Asia
Europe
Latin America
Middle East
United States
World

Students in U.S. or Latin America may cover the colonial period, the modern period, or both. Students in Europe may cover the ancient, medieval, and/or modern period. Specific areas of coverage need to be determined by consultation with advisers, based on a student’s coursework.

500-level courses: at least two in the major field, along with a third 400- or 500-level course in that field; at least one in the minor field, along with a second 400- or 500-level course in that field.

Examiners: One, two, or three for the major field; one or two for the minor field. A minimum of three examiners is required.

Workload Expectations:

- For the major field, the exam essays should total approximately 50 pages; for the minor field, the exam essays should total approximately 25 pages. Specific guidelines for each exam will be set by the field examiner(s).
- Topics and reading lists must be approved by the field examiners no later than week one of the quarter in which the student registers for the comprehensive exam.

Timeline for comps submission:

- 1) All topics and reading lists must be approved by the examiners no later than week one of the semester.
- 2) Questions, format, and structure must be set and approved by the examiners no later than week five of the semester.
- 3) Students may consult with their examiners up to the Monday of week ten of the semester.
- 4) Students must submit completed exams to the History Department office no later than 12 noon on the Wednesday of week 14 of the semester.