



The Graduate Program in Classics: Academic Procedure

or: The Twelve Tables for all students entering from 2003-04 onwards
Revised Version: December 2008

A— The Twelve Tables sets out the rationale and requirements of the five-year program leading to a Ph.D. in Classics. When in doubt about its provisions, consult the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS).

B— The Princeton Classics PhD program fully recognizes the importance of the diverse aspects of the discipline and aims to offer all students an opportunity to develop a comprehensive and varied course of study. The Department currently offers four curricular options:

Literature and Philology
Program in the Ancient World (History)
Program in Classical Philosophy
Classical and Hellenic Studies

Students concentrating on History are normally members of the Program in the Ancient World (PAW), those concentrating on Philosophy, of the Program in Classical Philosophy (PCP), and those concentrating also on Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, of the joint program in Classical and Hellenic Studies (CHS). This document applies to all students. Provisions applying only to a specific curricular option are explicitly indicated below.

Students select their curricular option at the beginning of the program, though later changes are possible in consultation with the DGS and the Graduate Committee. Membership in PAW is open also to students concentrating on Literature and Philology (LP), who must normally declare their decision to join PAW no later than January of their first year.

C — ADVISING

The Graduate Program is administered by the entire continuing faculty through a Graduate Committee. The Committee is chaired by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). Students discuss their academic program and progress with the DGS at the beginning of every semester, and, at the discretion of the DGS, with the full Graduate Committee. Each student on entry will also be assigned a faculty member as mentor, on the basis of the department's best impression of their interests at that stage. The mentor and student will meet at least once a semester so that the mentor can monitor progress, give more direct guidance, and catch any developing problems as early as possible. Students will be able to change their mentor as their interests change during the course or as they develop a working relationship with another faculty member.

D — GENERAL COURSEWORK AND PAPER REQUIREMENTS

The requirements leading to the PhD in Classics include coursework, papers, examinations, teaching, and a dissertation.

Specific course requirements are few, apart from the distribution requirements specific to individual programs (see below), and the Surveys in Greek and Latin Literature, offered in alternate years, which all students must take in their first two years. These Survey courses must be taken for a letter grade.

The Department normally requires each student to take for letter grade or pass/fail a total of **12** graduate courses over three years; students must inform the instructor by the end of the fourth week of the semester whether they have chosen the letter grade or pass/fail option. Relevant courses in other Departments may be substituted for Departmental courses. Previous graduate work at other institutions can be presented for credit to the Graduate Committee within certain limits.

Students are required to produce at least **6** research seminar papers, each normally of about 5000 words in length, before they can be certified as having completed generals. Choosing to take a seminar for a letter grade (see above)

commits the student to completing a seminar paper.¹ It is expected that first-year students will complete at least 1 paper in **each** semester and 3 by the end of the academic year; that second-year students will complete at least 1 paper in **each** semester; that third-year students—if they have not already satisfied the requirement—will complete at least 1 paper by the end of the academic year. Students not current with their papers will not be allowed to use department funds to travel abroad in the summer. PCP students must take at least 1 of the 2 required non-classical Philosophy seminars (see section E below) for a letter grade and complete a seminar paper for it.

The Department may accept for credit, at its discretion, up to two post-baccalaureate papers written before the student's matriculation at Princeton. While at Princeton students may also write papers for credit independent of coursework. Students planning to offer papers of either category must nevertheless stick to the timetable below for taking graded seminars until the paper requirement has been completely satisfied.

The following chart sets out the chronological distribution of seminar and papers requirements:

REQUIREMENTS		
YEAR	Seminars	Papers
I – Fall	3	3
I – Spring	3	
II – Fall	2	2
II – Spring	2	
III – Fall	1	1
III - Spring	1	

Special Author or Area Requirement:

PAW students must demonstrate expertise in 2 special fields: material culture and methodology. This requirement may be satisfied by a) taking seminars with a significant material culture or methodological component, b) participation in summer courses devoted to archaeology, such as those at the ASCSA or AAR or work at an archaeological excavation, or c) independent study directed by a faculty member (which may, but need not culminate in a paper).

For LP students, this requirement takes the form of an independent study project directed by a faculty member and culminating either in one of the six required papers or in the production of the dissertation prospectus. Though generally designed as preparation for the dissertation, this project may also be used to develop a research interest in a field different from that of the dissertation subject.

E — CURRICULAR OPTIONS

The following course distribution patterns are recommended.

	LP	PAW	PCP	CHS
1	Greek Literature Survey	Greek Literature Survey	Greek Literature Survey	Greek Literature Survey
2	Latin Literature Survey	Latin Literature Survey	Latin Literature Survey	Latin Literature Survey
3	Greek Literature	PAW Seminar (1 st yr)	Classical Philosophy	Topics in Hellenic Studies

¹ The only exceptions will be the survey courses and composition courses, grading for which is independent of any paper requirement. When students choose the graded option, they cannot be granted the grade of P if they do not complete their papers by the end of the semester. Instead, those students will have to apply for an incomplete, with the paper to be submitted not later than 3 weeks after the date on which the instructor must submit grades for the course. If the paper is not submitted by the due-date, the grade of INC becomes permanent and the student receives no credit for the course, which will not count as one of the 12 seminars needed toward the degree. Students must clearly inform the instructor by the end of the **fourth** week of classes whether they intend to take a seminar for a grade and must also record their choice with the Graduate Administrator.

4	Latin Literature	History	Classical Philosophy	Greek Literature
5	History	History	Classical Philosophy	Latin Literature / Roman Studies
6	Linguistics or Philosophy	History	History or Literature	Byzantine / Modern Greek
7	Prose Composition	Linguistics, Philosophy or Prose Comp.	Ling. Or Prose Composition	Byzantine / Modern Greek
8-12	Other Courses	Other Courses (2 in other Depts.)	Other Courses (must include 2 Philosophy Seminars on non-classical subjects, at least one of which must be taken for a grade.)	Other Courses

In accordance with the general aim of the Classics Graduate Program, students are strongly encouraged to take courses beyond the 12 required seminars and seriously consider taking courses in other Departments, especially closely related ones such as Anthropology, Art and Archaeology, Comparative Literature, History, Philosophy, and Religion (PAW students are required to take at least 2 such courses, and PCP students must take two non-classical Philosophy seminars). All students, particularly those in PAW or CHS, are strongly encouraged to pursue language study and/or field work or research in Greece or Italy, as appropriate, as well as to avail themselves of the opportunities under the Oxford-Princeton.

F — EXAMINATIONS

All students take the following examinations, with the appropriate curricular variants as noted in the chart:

Program Languages Examination:

This is commonly known as “the sight examination” because the passages set are chosen with an eye to their representative character as prose or poetry and are the sort that a student well prepared in the ancient languages should be able to translate without prior acquaintance or preparation, that is, “at sight”: they are accompanied by such notes as the examiners think necessary, but no other aids are allowed. One hour is allotted for each component (Greek prose, Greek poetry, Latin prose, Latin poetry, Byzantine and Modern Greek prose, Byzantine and Modern Greek poetry), to a total of four hours (six for CHS students). Grading is pass/fail. All the examinations must be attempted in September of the first year, and all must be passed by May of the second year. A student who passes the sight portion of the Greek or Latin survey final examination will be considered to have satisfied the program language examination requirement in that language.

Modern Languages Examination:

The modern language examinations are administered each Fall by the Department of German and the Department of French and Italian. Italian may be substituted for French.

General Examinations:

The general examinations in literature, history and philosophy are designed to test the candidates' professionally competent knowledge of the subject. Each component of the examinations follows a specific pattern. The Greek and Latin Literature examinations and the Philosophy examination have a component based on (but not limited to) the Reading List², which represents a spectrum of authors, genres, periods and styles. All examinations include, as their main components, essay questions that allow students to demonstrate their factual knowledge and their command of different modes of scholarly analysis. (For further information on the Literature and History examinations, see “Preparing for Generals: A Guide” <<http://www.princeton.edu/~classics/downloads/GeneralsGuide.pdf>> and the copies of past exams on file in the department office: for assistance in locating these documents, see the Graduate Administrator.) LP students may choose to take an examination in only one of the History fields so long as they take two seminars in the other field and write a paper in at least one of those seminars.

	LP	PAW	PCP	CHS
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² A distinct version of the reading list exists for PAW students.

Program Languages	Greek Latin	Greek Latin	Greek Latin	Greek Latin Byzantine / Modern Greek
Modern Languages	German French or Italian	German French or Italian	German French or Italian	German French or Italian
General Exams	1 Greek Literature 2 Latin Literature 3 Greek or Roman history	1, Greek Literature 2. Latin Literature 3. Greek History 4. Roman History	1. Philosophy 2-3 Lit. (Gk & Lat.) or History (Gk. & Rom.)	1. Byzantine/Modern Greek 2-3-4 Chosen from Lit. (Gk or Lat.) and History (Gk. & Rom.)

G — EXAM SESSIONS

Examinations are administered three times a year:

October—mid-month (program language examinations are administered in September)

January—mid-month

May—week after classes end

Modern language examinations are offered in the Fall by the relevant Department, German or French and Italian. General examinations may be attempted no more than twice. After a second failed attempt, Graduate School regulations require that degree candidacy be terminated

H — SCHEDULE

A firm schedule is essential for the timely completion of the degree requirements within the limits of funding provided. In brief, it works as follows: the first two years are devoted almost entirely to course-work and to program languages. In the third year, students complete the coursework and take their general examinations. The last two years are mainly left for the dissertation and teaching.

The schedule sets the latest limits for taking and passing each examination (all program languages are attempted on a diagnostic basis in September of the first year). Students who are ready to pass the various hurdles sooner are strongly encouraged to do so, within the limits set by the Graduate School.

If students fail to pass required examinations by the indicated deadline, re-admission to the following semester can be denied, or be offered on condition that the exam be passed at the next available session.

Key: PL = Program Languages; ML = Modern Languages; LIT/HIST/PHILOSOPHY/BMG = General Examinations.

	LP	PAW	PCP	CHS
I				
September	PL 1+2 (diagnostic) + ML 1	PL 1+2 (diagnostic) + ML 1	PL 1+2 (diagnostic) + ML 1	PL 1+2+3 (diagnostic) + ML 1
January				
May	PL 1		PL 1	PL 1
II				
September	ML	PL 1 + ML 2	ML 2	ML 2
January	PL 2			PL 2
May		PL 2	PL2	PL 3
III				
September	HIST		LIT or HIST	
January		LIT		1 LIT + BMG or 2 LIT
May	LIT	HIST	PHL	1 HIST+BMG or 2 HIST
IV				
November	Proposal	Proposal	Proposal	Proposal

I — TEACHING

Learning how to interact in the classroom with both undergraduates and graduate or faculty colleagues forms an important part of professional training, as does gaining first-hand knowledge of the range of subjects that can be offered under the rubric of Classics. Therefore, graduate students in the Department of Classics will participate in the teaching of at least two semester-long classes (= four "AI hours") at Princeton in the course of their graduate years.

Before considering a graduate student for teaching a course on their own, the Department normally requires at least one semester of service as a preceptor in a Departmental lecture course. There are two reasons for this: (1) it allows for support and supervision in what is often a graduate student's first exposure to the other side of the "teacher--student relationship"; and (2) the Department naturally wishes to bring the study of Classics to as many undergraduates as possible, but is able to do so only by relying to a certain extent on the skills of graduate students.

Teaching is assigned by the Chair in consultation with the DGS and the Departmental Representative. Every effort will be made to give students varied and profitable experience, including as far as possible the opportunity to teach the ancient languages. Teaching is normally scheduled after candidates have passed their general examinations. However, students are encouraged to precept for one of the four undergraduate history courses in preparation for their general examinations in history.

The Department expects students to fulfill the Departmental teaching requirement before accepting any appointment outside the Department. Even once this requirement has been met, students should be sure to discuss well in advance with the DGS any opportunities for external teaching. In general, the Department will strongly discourage students who are not up to date with their requirements from teaching elsewhere.

J — DISSERTATION

The dissertation, which completes the requirements of the PhD Program, "must show that the candidate has technical mastery of the field and is capable of doing independent research" (*Graduate School Announcement*).

Proposal

Students should begin to plan their dissertation as soon as possible after Generals, and should immediately contact Faculty members for advice. The proposal must be defended by November 1 of the fourth year. In reasonable advance of the proposal defense the student, the DGS, and the prospective primary adviser should discuss the composition of the student's dissertation committee.

The proposal, normally of 25 to 35 pages, should include a clear statement of the purpose of the dissertation; the method or methods to be employed in it; a discussion, preferably chapter by chapter, of the subjects to be addressed, the manner in which they would be discussed, and the possible conclusions arising from them; a consideration of the problems which might arise and how they would be dealt with; and an honest estimate of the work's potential originality and importance. Appended to the text should be a substantial bibliography, with those items clearly marked which the student has already read or consulted.

The student's dissertation committee will read the proposal and discuss it with the student and the DGS. After that interview the committee will recommend to the DGS that the proposal be accepted with revisions, referred back to the student for substantial revision, or rejected. In any of these events, the DGS will give the student further guidance on how to proceed.

Elaboration

Candidates should keep in close contact with the members of their committee, and regularly show them their work in progress.

There will be a Dissertation Workshop Seminar each year for fourth and fifth year dissertators. This Seminar will concentrate on preparation for the Dissertation Proposal Defense in the first few weeks of each Fall Semester, providing information and guidance on the mechanics of the Proposal and the dissertation writing process; thereafter the Seminar will meet every two or three weeks throughout the year, providing a forum for dissertators to circulate drafts of work in progress for feedback, and to discuss methodological or compositional issues.

When the dissertation is submitted in final form the DGS should be consulted for the procedure to follow at that point: students are responsible for informing themselves of the deadlines and general timeframe of these procedures. The members of the committee will submit written reports on it and recommendations for acceptance or rejection. Each member of the departmental faculty receives a copy of the reports, has access to the dissertation, and votes for acceptance or rejection.

If the dissertation is accepted by the department, a Final Public Oral examination is scheduled in accordance with Graduate School requirements. By custom, this has taken the form of a 30 minute talk by the candidate on the dissertation or some part of it, followed by an open question session. The departmental faculty takes a formal vote on whether to recommend to the Dean of the Graduate School that the degree of PhD. be conferred on the candidate. No 'with distinction' or 'cum laude' options are available.

Revised edition: August 2008.