

## **The Graduate Program in Classics: Academic Procedure**

or: The Twelve Tables

Revised Version: Sept. 2001 (for students entering PRIOR to 2003-2004)

**A** The Twelve Tables sets out the rationale and requirements of the five-year program leading to a Ph.D. in Classics. Where it differs from the departmental entry in the current Graduate School Announcement, this document is to be preferred. When in doubt, 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:

- (i) **Literature and Philology**
- (ii) **History (Program in the Ancient World)**
- (iii) **Classical Philosophy**
- (iv) **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.

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.

## **D GENERAL COURSEWORK AND PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

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

It is the tradition of the Princeton PhD in Classics that no specific course distribution is required, with the exception of the Proseminar (a comprehensive introduction to advanced research in Classical Antiquity), which all students are required to take in their first year, and of specific distribution requirements for PAW and CHS students (see below).

The Department normally requires each student to take for letter grade or pass/fail option a total of **12** graduate courses over three years. 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. Under normal circumstances, the Department may accept up to two post-baccalaureate papers for credit.

Approximately 12 seminars a year are offered on a wide spectrum of topics. The Proseminar, a PAW seminar and the CHS seminar "Topics in Hellenic Studies" are offered every year; prose composition courses in Greek and Latin are offered on alternate years; normally two history seminars and at least four literature seminars are offered each year.

Graduates following the Literature-philology or philosophy tracks should take a minimum of four seminars in the second year (either 3 Fall +1 Spring or 2 Fall + 2 Spring) and produce three papers. This will enable students to take ten or eleven seminars before Generals in January of the third year and complete seven of the papers required. Moreover, this will leave students time to prepare for

Reading List examinations in May of the second year.

Students are required to produce at least **8** research seminar papers, normally of about 5000 words in length each. Topics for papers related to courses should be discussed with instructors before the end of the teaching term. It is expected that papers will be finished and handed in before the official date for submission of grades: i.e. the end of January for Fall Term courses, and the end of May for Spring Term courses. If papers are not handed in by the prescribed deadline, a grade of either "Pass" or "Incomplete" (but no passing letter grade) can be given, depending on the student's overall performance in the seminar. Students should have no more than **one** incomplete in their records at the beginning of each semester.

The following charts set out the chronological distribution of seminar and papers requirements:

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS		
YEAR	LP/PCP	PAW/CHS
I		
Fall	3	3
Spring	3	3
II		
Fall	2 (3)	2
Spring	2 (1)	2
III		
Fall	1	1
Spring	1	1

PAPER REQUIREMENTS		
YEAR	LP/PCP	PAW/CHS
I		
Fall	2	2
Spring	2	2
II	3	3
III	1	1

## E CURRICULAR OPTIONS

The following course distribution patterns are recommended, except for the items in italics, which are required:

	LP	PAW	PCP	CHS
0	<i>Proseminar</i>	<i>Proseminar</i>	<i>Proseminar</i>	<i>Proseminar</i>
1	Greek literature	PAW seminar (1yr)	Classical philosophy	Topics in Hellenic Studies
2	Greek literature	History	Classical philosophy	Classical Greek Literature
3	Latin literature	History	Classical philosophy	Latin literature/Roman Studies
4	Latin literature	History	Greek literature	Latin literature/Roman Studies
5	History	Greek literature	Latin literature	Latin literature/Roman Studies
6	Linguistics or Philosophy	Latin literature	history or literature	Byzantine/Modern Greek
7	Prose Composition	Philos., ling. or prose comp.	Ling. or prose composition	Byzantine/Modern Greek
8 - 12	other courses	other courses (2 in other Depts.)	other courses	other courses

In accordance with the general aim of the Classics Graduate Program, students are strongly

encouraged to take courses over and above the 12 required seminars, and to 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).

## F EXAMINATIONS

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

- **Preliminary Program Languages Examination**

Passages for the examination are chosen with an eye to their representative character as prose or poetry, and are accompanied by such notes as necessary. 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.

- **Preliminary Modern Languages Examination**

The departmental exams are one hour long and consist of unseen scholarly prose, with access to a dictionary. Italian may be substituted for French.

- **Reading List**

The Reading List is divided into two parts. One part is common to all students irrespective of their curricular concentration. The other part varies with each of the four curricular options.

The Reading List puts forward a collection of texts which is of reasonable size and which presents a spectrum of authors, genres, periods, and styles -- an anthology of important texts, commonly read and commonly respected, representing a wide range of interests within a generously conceived literary mainstream. It is designed to widen the candidates' linguistic and literary experience and to mandate a minimally acceptable breadth of experience. It is not to be considered definitive for any purpose other than the Reading List exam.

- **General Examinations**

The general examinations in literature, history and philosophy are designed to test the candidates' in-depth knowledge of the subject. Each component of the examination follows a specific pattern.

- **Special Author and Area Examinations**

Special examinations are designed to test the students' expertise on a specific topic of their choice. For each examination, students choose a faculty supervisor with whom they agree on a syllabus including both primary and secondary material. Supervised preparation for each examination should cover approximately one semester. It is normally expected that one of the special examinations will be closely related to the topic of the dissertation.

	LP	PAW	PCP	CHS
Program languages	Greek Latin	Greek Latin	Greek Latin	Greek Latin Byzantine/Modern Greek
Modern languages	German French <i>or</i> Italian	German French <i>or</i> Italian	German French <i>or</i> Italian	German French <i>or</i> Italian
Reading list	Greek Latin	Greek Latin	Greek Latin	Greek Latin Byzantine/Modern Greek
		1 Greek	1 Philosophy	

General exams	literature 2 Latin literature 3 Greek history 4 Roman history	2 Latin literature 3 Greek history 4 Roman history	2-3 Lit. (Gk & Lat.) or History(Gk. & Rom.)	Greek 2-3-4 <i>chosen from</i> Lit. (Gk & Lat.) <i>and</i> History(Gk. & Rom.)
Special exams	1 Greek author 2 Latin author 3 Area	1 Material culture 2 Methodology	1 Greek author 2 Latin author	1 Author 2 Area (1 Byzantine/Modern Greek

## G EXAM SESSIONS

Examinations are administered three times a year:

- **September**—first week of classes
- **January**—mid-month
- **May**—week after classes end

Please note that program language examinations are normally not offered in January, nor are modern language examinations in September (the latter examination is offered in the fall by the relevant Department, German or Romance Languages).

Each examination can be attempted no more than twice. After a second failed attempt degree candidacy may be terminated by the Graduate Committee.

## 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 the preparation of the reading-list examinations. In the third year, students complete the coursework and prepare for 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. In particular, it is possible to divide the Reading List examination into two segments (Greek and Latin, or Classical and Post-Classical and Post-Classical for CHS students) and attempt either one separately before the final deadline.

If students fail to pass required examinations by the indicated deadline, 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; RL = Reading List;  
LIT/HIST/PHILOSOPHY/BMG = General Examinations; SP = Special Examinations.

	LP	PAW	PCP	CHS
I				
September	PL 1+2 (diagnostic)	PL 1+2 (diagnostic)	PL 1+2 (diagnostic)	PL 1+2+3 (diagnostic)
January				
May	PL 1+ML 1	ML 1	PL 1+ML 1	PL 1+ML 1
II				
September		PL 1		
January	PL 2			PL 2
May	RL+ ML 2	PL 2 + ML 2	RL+ML 2	PL 3+ML 2
III				

September	LIT	SP 1	LIT or HIST	SP 1
January	HIST	RL	PHILOSOPHY	RL
May	SP 1	LIT	SP 1	1 LIT+BMG or 2 LIT
IV				
September	SP 2	HIST		1 HIST+BMG or 2 HIST
January	SP 3	SP 2	SP 2	SP 2
February	Proposal	Proposal	Proposal	Proposal

## I TEACHING

Learning how to interact in the classroom with both undergraduates, graduate and 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 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 outside appointment (whether outside the Department or outside Princeton altogether). 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 should be defended by the end of February of the fourth year. In reasonable advance of the proposal defense the student and the DGS should discuss the composition of the student's dissertation committee.

The proposal, normally 15 to 25 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 DGS will then appoint an ad hoc committee to read the proposal and to discuss it with the student and the DGS: members of this committee may (but need not) be eventual readers of the dissertation. 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 at least two members of their committee, and regularly show both of them their work in progress. They should agree with the other member(s) of the committee when to show them their work.

When the dissertation is submitted in final form the DGS should be informed for the procedure to follow at that point. The co-directors, or the director and one other member of the committee submit written reports on it and recommendations for acceptance or rejection. Additional reports from members of the committee are welcome, but not required. 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 consultation with the Graduate School. 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.

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