

Field Examinations

1. Students will pass examinations in two broad areas of the discipline.
2. The Department will offer field exams in its areas of expertise. Presently, this includes:
 - Family, Life Course, and Sexualities;
 - Global Inequality and Change;
 - Immigration and Populations;
 - Inequalities (race/class/gender);
 - Social Movements and Political Sociology;
 - Social Networks;
 - Organizations, Occupations, and Labor.
3. Every exam area must offer a program of at least three courses (offered routinely over a 2-3 year period) to prepare students for the examination. Students must satisfactorily complete at least two courses in an area in order to take the examination, or demonstrate competence in some other way to the satisfaction of the evaluation committee. Faculty members in an area may also provide an additional list of significant works in the field not necessarily covered in seminars.
4. Examinations will be offered in the fall and spring quarters during the fourth week of the quarter.
5. Students take the first examination in a seven hour format on premises, allowing one hour for a break. The final product will be presented typewritten.
6. The examination will normally be comprised of 3-6 broad questions, from which students will answer at least two questions. Faculty in each area will decide on the appropriate number and balance of questions.
7. Old questions will be available to students for help in preparing for the examination.
8. All examinations will be evaluated by a chair of the substantive area and one other faculty member. In the event of dispute, a third faculty member in the area will read the examination as well. Faculty members in each area will rotate through this responsibility on a regular basis.
9. For the second examination, students may submit final projects from three satisfactorily completed courses or from other relevant experience in the area to the evaluation committee in lieu of a formal examination.
10. Students may petition to take an examination in an alternative field, contingent upon assembling a committee of three faculty to evaluate the work.
11. Examinations will be evaluated on a pass/no pass basis. Students who do not pass an examination may retake it once, usually at the next available date.