Ph.D. Program in English, CUNY Graduate Center

First Examination Learning Goals

Students who complete the First Examination will be able to demonstrate:

1) broad, deep, and detailed knowledge of British, American, and other Anglophone literatures.

2) knowledge of a variety of critical theories and the ability to use these theoretical approaches to elucidate different features and meanings in specific texts.

3) a working understanding of the vocabulary and protocols of close reading, especially of poetic texts.

4) the ability spontaneously to improvise and organize an engaging and coherent written response to perennial literary issues and problems.

5) depth of knowledge of a particular author or literary period.

6) historical range of knowledge of literary texts from earlier and later periods.