INTELLECTUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Each student will write an Intellectual Autobiography: a statement (of no more than 1200 words) of the topics or areas in which the student’s scholarship to date has concentrated and in which the student anticipates his or her scholarship will develop in the future. The Intellectual Autobiography provides practice writing in a particular professional genre (namely, the preamble to a grant proposal) and provides the framework for the student’s demonstration of comprehensive knowledge in the First Exam. As part of the Intellectual Autobiography, students should explain how in one or more of the three parts of the First Exam they demonstrate comprehensive knowledge by engaging with material that falls outside their areas of concentration to date, whether in terms of chronological period, nationality, theoretical or methodological approach, genre, media, or topic. In explaining how these comprehensive requirements have been met, students might also choose to reflect critically on how having to meet those requirements for the First Exam was productive or unproductive in advancing their intellectual development at this stage of Ph.D. work.