

## **Guidelines for the General Examinations for the Ph.D. in Classics: Philology Track**

### **General Policies**

Students must use computers in the special secure computer room reserved for the occasion. Handwritten exams will not be accepted.

No notes or digital devices, including cell phones, may be taken into the exam room.

A student who fails any of the exams on the first try must submit a detailed plan of study for approval by the Executive Committee. After receiving approval, the student may take the exam a second time at the next time the exam is given. If the student fails to pass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> try, the student must leave the Program.

### **The Modern Language Exams**

The choice of languages is German and either French or Italian. This requirement may be filled at any time before advancing to candidacy, either by passing an exam administered by the Program or by earning a grade of B or higher in a second-level course offered at the Graduate Center. The Program's exam consists of a medium length passage on a classical topic from a scholarly article or book written in the relevant language. The student is expected to translate the passage into idiomatic English. The time limit is two hours and students are allowed to use a small dictionary.

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### **First Examination for the Philology Track**

The "First Examination" is taken before the completion of 45 credits. It has two parts which are taken separately and may be taken in any order. These exams are generally offered at the beginning of each semester. When a student passes both parts of the First Examination they are advanced to the second doctoral level. The Executive Officer will circulate an announcement with the dates of the exams at least two months in advance and ask students to sign up in writing. Two faculty members will compose each exam and two other faculty will read them. When a student passes both parts of the First Examination they are advanced to the second doctoral level.

TRANSLATION EXAMS, both of the following:

- **The Greek Translation Exam** for the Ph.D. This exam tests the student's ability to translate from Greek to English. It consists of six passages (three prose and three poetry), each about twenty lines long, with two out of each set taken from the Greek Reading List for Translation – MA & PhD. At the time of the exam, each student selects and translates two prose and two poetry passages. The time limit is three hours. No dictionaries may be used.
  - **The Latin Translation Exam** for the Ph.D. This exam tests the student's ability to translate from Latin into English. It consists of six passages (three prose and three poetry), each about twenty lines long, with two out of each set taken from the Latin Reading List for Translation – MA & PhD. At the time of the exam, each student selects and translates two prose and two poetry passages. The time limit is three hours. No dictionaries may be used.
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**The en route M.A.** After completing the entire “First Examination,” a research paper (which may be a paper submitted as course work), one modern language exam (French German or Italian) and 45 credits with an average grade of B or higher, students may be awarded an en route Masters Degree in Classics.

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### **The Second Examination for the Philology Track**

The “Second Examination” is taken when the student is near or has completed 60 credits. Its three parts are taken separately in no set order. Following the completion of the Second Examination and all other requirements for the PhD, students are advanced to candidacy and reach level three.

**Written Examination in the History of Greece and Rome.** This written exam tests the student’s knowledge of both Greek and Roman history. In advance of the exam, students will be provided with 16 questions in these four areas: 1) Archaic and Classical Greece, 2) the Hellenistic East, 3) the Roman Republic, and 4) the Roman Principate. The exam itself will present two questions in each area, and philology students should choose one question to write on in three of the areas. In their answers students should refer to texts on the History Reading List of Ancient Authors. Reading lists of secondary scholarship for each area will also be provided by the History Committee to guide the students’ preparation. The time limit is three hours. This exam is offered twice a year at the same time as the translation exams and the same policies covering the announcement, composition and reading of the exam are followed.

**Oral Examinations in the History of Greek Literature and the History of Roman Literature.** Each exam will be administered by a committee of three faculty members. Two will be appointed by the Executive Officer in consultation with the Examination Committee and one, who will act as the student’s advisor on a special author/topic, will be appointed by the Executive Officer in consultation with the student and the Exam Committee. The special author/topic will be approved by the advisor and the Executive Officer. The advisor will be responsible for suggesting suitable bibliography on the special topic and will question the student during the exam on this area. The committee members asking general questions may consult with each other and the advisor prior to the exam in order to avoid overlap, and may consult with the student about his/her interests. The general questions will be based on the Greek Reading List for the PhD Oral Exams, or the Latin Reading List on the PhD Oral Exams, as applicable. Two hours will be allotted for the exam, with each of the three faculty questioning the student for about 40 minutes. At the conclusion of the exam, the student will be asked to leave the room while the committee deliberates. The student will then be called back and the committee will announce its decision. The exam may be graded as Pass with Distinction, Pass or Fail. Oral exams will normally be given at the convenience of the student and the examiners during the academic semester. Students must inform the Executive Officer in writing of their intention to take either exam at least one month prior to the exam itself.

The general areas of the exam will be based on the Program’s PhD reading lists for the PhD oral examinations. Students will be expected to know basic information about the individual authors and their writings, to be able thoughtfully to answer questions about individual works in their specific intellectual and cultural contexts, and the ways these authors or their works are influenced by or themselves influence other works on the list (or authors in the other language). Some emphasis may also be laid on methodology and relevant scholarly and interpretive issues.