

## **Guidelines for Examinations in the Classics MA Program And some related policies**

Students generally take their examinations after they have completed all 30 required credits and have passed a reading exam in German, French or Italian. This is can be an exam administered by the Program, but this requirement can also be fulfilled by taking a level-two reading course at the Graduate Center and earning a grade of B or higher.

In addition to one modern language exam, Masters students must take one translation exam in either Latin or Greek and a History of Latin (or Greek) Literature exam. The two languages need not be the same, but generally they are. All the exams are written. The translation exam is based on the [Latin Reading List for Translation – MA & PhD](#) or the [Greek Reading List for Translation – MA & PhD](#).

**The Latin or Greek Translation exam** consists of three passages of Latin or Greek poetry and three of prose from which the student must choose two in each category. The passages are about 20 lines long and the student has three hours to complete the exam. No dictionaries are allowed and no digital devices may be taken into the exam room. Sample exams are available in the Program office from the Assistant Program Officer.

**The History of Latin (or Greek) Literature exam.** When you have responded positively the Executive Officer's invitation to register your intention to take an examination in the history of Latin literature **or** the history of Greek literature, you will be provided with 12 essay topics that have been set for the exam that semester. When you arrive for the exam you will be given 4 of these topics, selected by the faculty, and asked to write on 3 of them. You will have three hours to complete the exam. You may not bring any notes into the exam, but it is expected that you will have given the essays some thought and done some research in preparation for writing them. Because you are receiving the topics in advance, you should be able to support your arguments with specific examples and demonstrate a broad range of knowledge in your responses. The History of Latin (or Greek) Literature exams at the MA level are not the equivalent of the PhD History of Literature exams which are oral.

Questions on any of the above may be addressed to the Executive Officer.