

African American and African Studies Comprehensive Exams- General and Concentration-Additional Procedures – and Comp Exam Reading List Approval Form

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES DEGREE-GENERAL EXAM

The purpose of the African American and African Studies general comprehensive exam is to assess doctoral students' knowledge of the Black/Africana Studies discipline. The exam prepares doctoral degree candidates to compete for teacher-scholar academic careers in the discipline. With a PhD in African American and African Studies, successful exam candidates should be able to teach university level Africana/Black Studies courses in the core topics, concepts and themes defined by the discipline – see below.

Disciplinary knowledge and core curriculum content of Black/Africana Studies is delivered through AAAS graduate students' required coursework in the core curriculum, including *Intro to African American Studies (830)*, *Intro to African Studies (829)*, *Intro to African Diaspora Studies (831)* and *Multicultural Pedagogy in African American and African Studies (832)*. The African American and African Studies comprehensive exam reading list consists of readings drawn from these courses, as well as from classical and current readings in the discipline https://www.msu.edu/~aaas/AAAS/PHD_files/African%20American%20and%20African%20Studies%20Comprehensive%20Exam%20Reading%20List%20Updated%20May%2025%202012.pdf

The list is categorized by geographical region (African-American Studies, African Studies and African Diaspora Studies) with each region further categorized by thematic clusters and topics, including *State of the Discipline, Ideology/Philosophy, Identity, Race, Gender, Slavery, Colonialism, Nationalism, Segregation, Civil Rights, Politics and Economics (Inequality, Access, Mobilization, Migrations/Globalization) Culture, Literature and Art; and Biographical Subjects*. The AAAS comp list is updated every year.

Procedural Steps for Exam Candidate, Chair, and Guidance Committee

1. Exam candidate and dissertation chair will select 100 readings from the African American and African Studies PhD and MA Comprehensive Exam List https://www.msu.edu/~aaas/AAAS/PHD_files/African%20American%20and%20African%20Studies%20Comprehensive%20Exam%20Reading%20List%20Updated%20May%2025%202012.pdf
2. Candidates and dissertation chairs must select readings from each of the geographic regions, including a minimum of 40% of the readings from the African American Studies, including Multi-cultural Pedagogy listing.
3. In preparation for the comprehensive exam (four to five questions), candidates and dissertation chairs will categorize readings into select thematic topics and/or clusters (four or five) corresponding to exam questions and topics.
4. The chair will circulate the clustered list to the committee and select at least two examiners with expertise to jointly (with the chair) formulate exam questions, and assess and grade the exam.
5. The Candidate and the Chair will complete with attached comp exam list and requisite approvals, the AAAS Comprehensive Exam Reading List Approval Form – see below. Completed and approved forms with lists are cc'd to student file.
6. The exam will be a take-home exam (72 hours) – see handbook online here https://www.msu.edu/~aaas/AAAS/PHD_files/AAAS%20Handbook%20Version%20June%2013%202012%20Update.pdf for detailed instructions (Detailed instructions on PhD comprehensive exams and the MA Thesis requirements begin on page 16).
7. Results of the exam must be returned to the students no later than two weeks.
8. Exams can be graded as a) Pass, b) Revise and Resubmit, c) Fail
9. For students who succeed in passing their general/concentration comp exams, chairs will schedule a joint General/Concentration Oral Exam to be proctored in conjunction with the students' Oral Proposal Defense Exam.

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES DEGREE- CONCENTRATION EXAM

The AAAS Concentration (aka Specialization) acts as a sub-disciplinary focus of research and teaching for the PhD and MA degree candidate conducting disciplinary study in African American and African Studies. The key objective of the concentration is to supplement, deepen, gain focused expertise, and acquire a sub-disciplinary method of advanced research for students' dissertations and future teacher-scholar research profiles.

Concentration Exam reading lists should be compiled by the exam candidate (graduate student) and directed by the candidate's dissertation chair in consultation with guidance committee members with the most concentration discipline expertise. Reading lists should be based on a candidate's concentration coursework, a wide body of scholarship required for the candidate's dissertation methodology and theoretical framework; and requisite sub-disciplinary concentration readings recommended by the dissertation committee members in the sub-discipline.

The final list should comprise of no less than 75 books/readings.

Procedures for Candidate, Chair, and Guidance Committee

1. The Candidate and Chair will compile the concentration exam list in consultation with committee members based on the above criteria.
2. In preparation for the comprehensive exam (four to five questions), candidates and dissertation chairs will categorize readings into select thematic topics and/or clusters (four or five) corresponding to exam questions and topics.
3. The chair will circulate the clustered list to the committee and select at least two examiners with expertise to jointly (with the chair) formulate exam questions, and assess and grade the exam.
4. The Candidate and the Chair will complete with attached comp exam list and requisite approvals, the ***AAAS Comprehensive Exam Reading List Approval Form*** – see below. Completed and approved forms with lists are cc'd to student file.
5. The exam will be a take-home exam (72 hours) – see handbook online here https://www.msu.edu/~aaas/AAAS/PHD_files/AAAS%20Handbook%20Version%20June%2013%202012%20Update.pdf > for detailed instructions (Detailed instructions on PhD comprehensive exams and the MA Thesis requirements begin on page 16).
6. Results of the exam must be returned to the students no later than two weeks.
7. Exams can be graded as a) Pass, b) Revise and Resubmit, c) Fail
8. For students who succeed in passing their general/concentration comp exams, chairs will schedule a joint General/Concentration Oral Exam to be proctored in conjunction with the students' Oral Proposal Defense Exam.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES DEGREE
COMPREHENSIVE EXAM READING LIST APPROVAL FORM**

Exam Candidate Name _____

Rank/Year _____

Sub-Disciplinary Concentration _____

A: Identify AAAS General Comp Exam Proportion of Black/Africana Studies Core Discipline Geographic Areas

- a) African American Studies, including Multi-cultural Pedagogy 40%
- b) African Studies _____%
- c) African Diaspora Studies _____%

B: Identify AAAS General Comp Exam Thematic Clusters/Topics

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

C: Identify AAAS Concentration Comp Exam Thematic Clusters/Topics

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

D. Attach Lists to this form!

E: Required Approvals

Guidance Committee/Thesis Chair _____ Date _____

PRINT NAME AND SIGNATURE

Director _____ Date _____

PRINT NAME AND SIGNATURE

Exam Candidate (Student) _____ Date _____

SIGNATURE