

Senior Assessment: History Oral Exam

Exam format

The History Oral Exam is thirty minutes long and consists of three main components: questions about three scholarly texts of your choice, questions about your research paper, and questions about selected historians and historiographical terms and areas. Additionally, the examining committee may ask you to reflect on your professional skills and accomplishments and on the intersection of scholarship and faith.

History & Political Studies faculty serve as the examiners for the oral exam.

Preparation

By July 1, students must send faculty

- A list of three monographs from your **History coursework** - one from the Americas field; one from a non-Americas field; and one of your choice We recommend you **ask professors during the semester you take the courses** whether the books they have assigned fit the requirements for the exam. It is expected that you will **read the entirety of the books** even if only parts of them were assigned during the class
- A list of five major historians from your Historiography course and/or History Seminar. It is expected you'll look up information about the authors and what they contributed to the field and are familiar with their most significant work. You should be able to discuss the way they were presented and included in your Seminar or Historiography classes in addition to knowing the larger information about them.

The three authors of the books **cannot** overlap with the five major historians.

The faculty will approve of your list or offer suggestions so that you can be fully prepared by the third week of exams.

One week before the exam you need to **email the chair of the department**

- A historical research paper written for a WRT course in the History major (NOT Research Methods)
- An up-to-date CV following the format of [the sample CV on the departmental website](#)

Students are advised to consult with faculty as they compile the items above.

Students *will sign up for their exact examination day and time on the first day* of their research classes in the fall. Students who aren't taking research methods will be given a chance to sign up during the first week of classes.

Passing the exam

Students cannot fail any one area of this rubric and still pass the exam.

Rubric used to assess the oral exam

I. Monographs

- Submits three monographs and/or edited volumes from History coursework
- Demonstrates ability to identify and critically assess authors' arguments, methodologies, sources, and historiographical contributions
- Identifies themes across and makes comparisons between selected texts, as well as with primary and other secondary sources from History coursework
- Contextualizes readings within broader historical information from History coursework

____ / 30 points

II. Research paper

- Submits **research paper** from a class in the major (as opposed to book reviews or response papers or primary source analysis papers)
- Communicates argument with clarity and concision
- Responds knowledgeably to questions raised by examiners about selection of research topic, methodology, evidence (sources), and historiographical interventions
- Explains how skills obtained through the research and writing process might apply to research on different subjects

_____ / 20 points

III. Historians and historical methodologies

- Brings list of five major historians from Historiography course and/or History Seminar
- Describes and assesses scholarly significance of selected historians, their major works, and their historical methodologies
- Discusses application of ideas and skills from Historiography course and History Seminar to their course of study and professional goals

_____ / 30 points

IV. Communication and Reflection

- Communicates ideas with clarity and precision
- Makes meaningful connections between the historical discipline and their religious beliefs and practices, calling, and/or other interests, including the evolution of the latter during their course of study at Southern

_____ / 10 points

V. Resume/CV

- Brings a complete CV representing all the categories listed on the sample CV
- Has clear record of departmental, work, international and volunteer experiences
- Explains how languages, projects, software, communication, and other skills developed through coursework and other experiences at Southern contribute to their professionalization

_____ / 10 points

_____ / **100 points total**

Grading scale:

90-100 points A

80-89 points B

70-79 points C

0-69 points F