

Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of the Teaching Audit Committee on 20/09/16

Title of Programme

MPhil Latin American Studies

Brief note about nature of change: revision to text

Effective date

With immediate effect, for students who started MT 2015

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2015

Detail of change

Master of Philosophy in Latin American Studies

(See also the general notice at the commencement of these regulations.)

For the purposes of this examination, 'Latin America' will be interpreted as the eighteen Spanish-speaking republics of the Western Hemisphere, plus Brazil, Haiti, and Puerto Rico.

The regulations are as follows:

Year 1:

1. In the first year, candidates for the M.Phil. in Latin American Studies will:

(a) Follow for three terms a course of instruction in the M.Sc in Latin American Studies with the exception of the extended essay. Candidates will present three qualifying examinations, ~~each of which also count for 16.6 per cent of the final degree mark.~~

(b) Undertake a series of assignments and/or unseen written examinations in Research Methods for Area Studies as specified by the teaching committee for the M.Phil in Latin American Studies. The forms of assessment, and the dates and times of submission, where applicable, will be notified to students by not later than Friday of Week 0 of Michaelmas Full Term. Students must pass all these assessments but the marks will not count toward the final degree mark.

(c) Develop a thesis topic, which will be the subject of fieldwork in the long vacation between the first and second year. A draft title for the thesis must be submitted for approval by the Latin American Centre Management Committee by 12:00 noon on the Friday of Week 0 of Hilary Term.

(c) (d) Candidates may also be required to present themselves for an oral examination if requested to do so by the examiners. The oral examination will focus on the candidate's examination papers.

2. The list of examination papers will be published on the Latin American Centre website and in the *University Gazette* in Week 0 of Michaelmas Term. Specialisation on a single country or a combination of countries is permitted so long as the choice appears in the list of available papers published.

3. Candidates shall be deemed to have passed the qualifying examination if they have passed all three qualifying examination papers and all the components of the Research Methods for Area Studies.

4. Candidates who fail one of the three papers taken at the end of the first year as set out in (a) above ~~without compensating strengths on both of the other papers~~ shall be deemed to have failed the qualifying examination. Such candidates will be required to retake the failed paper and pass it by the start of the Michaelmas Term of their second year, on a date stipulated by the Chair of Examiners, in order to continue the course without interruption.

5. Candidates who fail more than one paper as set out in (a) above shall be deemed to have failed the qualifying examination. Such candidates will be permitted to retake the papers failed on one (but not more than one) subsequent occasion, in Trinity Term, one year after the initial attempt. Such candidates must pass the papers that they have retaken in order to continue onto the second year of the course.

6. Candidates who fail any component of Research Methods for Area Studies will be required to retake it on a date stipulated by the Chair of Examiners, and pass it by the start of week 0 of Michaelmas Term of their second year of the course.

Year 2:

7. In the second year, candidates for the M.Phil. in Latin American Studies will:

(a) Offer a thesis of not more than 30,000 words, including footnotes and appendices. Two typewritten copies of the thesis must be delivered to the Examination Schools and addressed to the Chair of Examiners for the M.Phil. in Latin American Studies, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, by 12 noon on the Monday of Week 5 of Trinity Term in the calendar year in which the examination is to be taken. Successful candidates will be required to deposit one copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library, and will be required to sign a form stating whether they will permit their thesis to be consulted. ~~The thesis will be equivalent to two examination papers, and so will count for 33.3 per cent of the final degree mark.~~

(b) Take another examination paper from the list; or by agreement with the Latin American Centre Director of Graduate Studies and the relevant department, take a methodology or other paper from an appropriate M.Phil. elsewhere in the University of Oxford. ~~The examination will count for 16.6 per cent of the final degree mark.~~

(c) Candidates will be required to present themselves for an oral examination. The oral examination may focus on the candidate's examination papers, thesis, or both.

8. Candidates shall be deemed to have passed the examination if they have passed all examination papers and the thesis.

9. Candidates who fail the second year examination paper ~~(without compensating strengths on the thesis)~~ or who fail the thesis shall be deemed to have failed the examination. Such candidates will be permitted to resubmit the thesis or retake the examination paper on one (but not more than one) subsequent occasion, in Trinity Term, one year after the initial attempt. Such candidates must pass the thesis or examination paper in order to pass the examination.

10. Candidates who fail both the thesis and the examination paper shall be deemed to have failed the examination. Such candidates will be permitted to retake the examination and resubmit the thesis on one (but not more than one) subsequent occasion, in Trinity Term, one year after the initial attempt. Such candidates must pass both the thesis and the examination paper in order to pass the examination.

11. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

Explanatory Notes

1. Removal of references to compensating marks.
2. Removal of weightings of papers (already found in conventions).

Vested interests for 1:

The Examination Conventions were amended for 2015-16 to remove compensating marks, but the regulations were not updated in line with this change. The Exam Board for the qualifying examination in 2016 applied the 2015-16 conventions. None of the student outcomes would have been different had compensation been permitted. It was therefore agreed that this change could be made to the regulations for on-course students.