

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of SSD Quality Assurance Committee on 22/01/2019 and by Chair's Action on behalf of Humanities GSC on 31/01/2019

Master of Philosophy in Modern Chinese Studies

Brief note about nature of change: Amendment to the assessment of the 'Research Methods for Area Studies' and 'Modern China Humanities' core courses. Amendment to remove reference to award of a Distinction as covered by General Regulation.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018*, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/mopinmodechinstud/studentview/>

Effective date

For students starting from MT2019

For first (qualifying) examination from 2019-20

Detail of change

1. Amend citation 1.9 as follows:

'Research Methods for Area Studies: Candidates will submit a 2,500 word maximum practical exercise in the collection and analysis of qualitative data not later than 12 noon on Monday of week 9 of Michaelmas Term and; a take-home test in quantitative analysis to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of week 9 of Hilary Term; ~~and a 2,500 word maximum individual research proposal not later than 12 noon Monday of week 9 of Hilary Term.'~~

2. Amend citation 1.11 as follows:

'Modern China Humanities: Candidates will submit two 3,000 word maximum essays that explore some aspect of modern China from a humanities perspective. The first essay will be submitted by 12 noon on Monday of week 9 of Michaelmas Term and the second essay will be submitted by 12 noon on Monday of week 9 of Hilary Term. ~~a 2,500 word maximum~~

~~individual research proposal by 12 noon on Thursday of week 6 of Trinity Term and also present themselves for a three-hour written examination in the study of Modern China at the end of Trinity Term'~~

3. Amend citation 1.13 as follows:

~~'7. Candidates will be required to pass the core course examination, language examination and either the Research Methods for Area Studies course overall, or the research proposal and the written examination for the Modern China Humanities course overall to be allowed to progress to the second and final year. Candidates who fail the Research Methods for Area Studies course overall or the Modern China Humanities Course overall will be permitted to resubmit a new submission for the failed piece(s) of work within four weeks of publication of the failed mark(s), on a date specified by the Chair of Examiners. Candidates who fail have failed to pass either element of the Modern China Humanities course or any of the other components will be given the opportunity to retake the component(s) before the commencement of the next academic year. Candidates who fail the option paper will be required to re-sit and pass the failed paper when next offered the following year.'~~

4. Delete citation 1.22:

~~15. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.~~

5. Amend citation 1.23 as follows:

~~'156. Candidates who fail one or more of the examination papers or the thesis will be permitted to retake the examination paper(s)'~~

Explanatory Notes

The 'Research Methods for Area Studies' core course is currently assessed by a quantitative take-home test, a qualitative take-home test and a research proposal. It is proposed to make the research proposal a formative assignment, and for the course to be assessed based on the two take-home tests.

The 'Modern China Humanities' core course is currently assessed by a three hour written examination and a research proposal. It is proposed to replace the written examination with two 3,000 words essays, one submitted at the end of MT and the second at the end of HT. Each of these essays would provide students with an opportunity to assess a thematic topic, historical moment, or primary source covered in the Modern China Humanities course in a way that applies methodological and/or theoretical approaches taught in the course.

Amendment to remove reference to award of a Distinction as covered by General Regulation.