

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 Teaching Audit Committee on 06/07/16

Title of Programme

MSc African Studies

Brief note about nature of change: change to assessment for option papers

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2016

For first examination from 2016-17

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2015

Detail of change

Master of Science by Coursework in African Studies

1. Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction in African Studies for three terms, and will, when they enter their names for the examination, be required to produce a certificate from their supervisors to this effect.
2. Candidates will be required to present themselves for examination in the compulsory paper in Themes in African History and the Social Sciences, and in one optional paper at the end of Trinity Term in the year of registration. In addition, each candidate will be required to submit the following written work:
 - (i) One 4,500 word essay for the compulsory core course in Methodology, Ethics and Research Strategies selected from a list of questions approved by the African Studies

Teaching Committee and made available to candidates by the last Friday of Michaelmas Term. The essay must be submitted not later than 12 noon on the first Monday of Hilary Term in the year in which the examination is taken.

- (ii) One 15,000 word dissertation, which must include discussion of the comparative reading, historiography, or theory relevant to the dissertation. The title of the dissertation must be approved by the African Studies Teaching Committee not later than 12 noon on the last day of eighth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the year in which the examination is taken. The dissertation must be submitted not later than 12 noon on Friday of sixth week of Trinity Full Term in the year in which the examination is taken.
- (iii) One 4,500 word essay for one option paper, selected from a list of three questions prepared by the course convenor and made available to candidates by the last Friday of Hilary Term. The essay must be submitted not later than 12 noon on the last Friday of Trinity Term in the year in which the examination is taken.

Two typewritten or word processed copies of the written work detailed above must be delivered to the Examination Schools, addressed to the Chair of Examiners for the M.Sc. in African Studies, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford at the times and days specified. One electronic copy of the dissertation must be submitted along with the physical copies to the Examination Schools. The electronic copy must be anonymous, submitted in word format, and identical in content and length to the physical copies of the dissertation.

3. A candidate must pass all components of the examination in order to pass the degree. A candidate who fails any element of the examination will be permitted to retake or resubmit it on one further occasion within six terms of his or her initial registration. A candidate who fails one or more of the compulsory or optional papers will be required to resit both papers. In the case of a failed essay or dissertation, the resubmitted dissertation can be on the same topic and include previously submitted work.

4. Candidates may be required to attend an oral examination on any part of the examination.

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

SCHEDULE

The structure of the course is as follows:

(a) *Compulsory core course in Methodology, Ethics and Research Strategies*: ethics, politics; disciplinary approaches including history, politics, anthropology; conducting interviews: oral traditions, questionnaires, archives on and in Africa; visual materials, photographs and films; practical aspects of research.

(b) *Compulsory core course in Themes in African History and the Social Sciences*: key features of African states; social and economic change and the dilemmas of development; globalisation and conflict in the post-colonial era; environmental history and politics.

(c) *Optional paper*: Candidates must choose one optional paper from a list published annually and distributed to students by the last day of eighth week of Michaelmas Full Term.

Oxford 1+1 MBA programme

Candidates registered on the Oxford 1+1 MBA programme will follow an additional two or three month bridging programme at the end of their third term of the combined programme.

Each candidate will be appointed an academic advisor from the Saïd Business School to plan an individual course of study which will include as a minimum, the following three compulsory elements:

- (i) Attendance of one of the summer elective programmes offered for the Master of Business Administration to be published by the MBA Director before the first Monday of the preceding term. Candidates would be required to undertake all assessments and receive feedback, but would not obtain credit towards the MBA. Candidates are not permitted to subsequently undertake the same elective as part of the MBA programme the following year.
- (ii) A formatively assessed assignment of no more than 5,000 words (including all prefatory matter and appendices) supervised by the Saïd Business School academic advisor, which will relate the Master's degree learning to an appropriate area of the MBA programme. Candidates would also be required to present a work plan related to this assignment to the 1+1 programme class.
- (iii) Attendance of the MBA pre-course as described in the joining instructions for the MBA class, unless granted exemption by the MBA Committee on the grounds of prior formal study or work experience.

Explanatory Notes

Change to assessment for option papers from unseen examinations to assessed essays. School is contacting offer-holders to inform them of the change.