HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Academic Committee

Change(s) in the regulations governing the Honour School of Oriental Studies: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies

Ref: II/11

Subject to approval on behalf of the divisional board, which is now sought, and by Education Committee, the following changes in regulations have been made:

Humanities Divisional Board

Honour School of Oriental Studies - Arabic and Islamic Studies, Persian with Islamic Art and Archaeology and Turkish with Islamic Art and Archaeology

Brief note about nature of the change(s)

Changes to option papers.

With effect from 1 October 2011 (for first examination in 2012)

1 In Examination Regulations, 2010, p. 384, l. 26, delete ‘Early Islamic art and archaeology, 550-1250’ and substitute ‘Aspects of Islamic art, architecture and archaeology’.

2 Ibid., p. 385, l. 12, delete ‘Later Islamic art and architecture, 1250-1700’ and substitute ‘Architectural landmarks of the Islamic world’.

3 Ibid., p. 392, l. 16, delete ‘Early Islamic art and archaeology, 550-1250’ and substitute ‘Architecture and arts of the court in the Islamic world’.

4 Ibid., l. 17, delete ‘Later Islamic art and architecture, 1250-1700’ and substitute ‘Aspects of Islamic art, architecture and archaeology, to be examined by means of a timed paper, and by means of an extended essay, which shall not exceed 6,000 words (including footnotes but excluding bibliography), and shall be on a topic or theme selected by the candidate from a question paper published by the examiners on or before the Friday of the fourth week of Michaelmas Term in the year of examination available for collection from the Oriental Institute Faculty Office. Essays should be typed or word-processed in double-spacing and should conform to the standards of academic presentation prescribed in the “Guidelines for Writers of Theses” in the course handbook. Essays shall normally be written during the Michaelmas Term in the year of examination and must be delivered by hand to the Examination Schools (addressed to the Chairman of Examiners, Honour School of Oriental Studies, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford) not later than 12 noon on the Friday before the beginning of Hilary Full Term of the year of examination. Candidates delivering essays will be required to complete a receipt form, which will only be accepted as proof of receipt if it is countersigned by a member of the Examination Schools staff. The essay must be accompanied by a sealed envelope (bearing only the candidate’s examination number) containing a formal declaration signed by the candidate that the essay is his or her own work. The University’s regulations on Late Submission of Work apply. Any candidate may be examined viva voce.’.

5 Ibid., p. 394, l. 12, delete ‘Early Islamic art and archaeology, 600-1250’ and substitute ‘Architecture and arts of the court in the Islamic world’.

6 Ibid., l. 13, delete ‘Later Islamic art and architecture, 1250-1700’ and substitute ‘Aspects of Islamic art, architecture and archaeology, to be examined by means of a timed paper, and by means of an extended essay, which shall not exceed 6,000 words (including footnotes but excluding bibliography), and shall be on a topic or theme selected by the candidate from a question paper published by the examiners on or before the Friday of the fourth week of Michaelmas Term in the year of examination available for collection from the Oriental Institute Faculty Office. Essays should be typed or word-processed in double-spacing and should conform to the standards of academic presentation prescribed in the “Guidelines for Writers of Theses” in the course handbook. Essays shall normally be written during the Michaelmas Term in the year of examination and must be delivered by hand to the Examination Schools (addressed to the Chairman of Examiners, Honour
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Explanatory note

(i) The current Further Subject ‘Early Islamic art and archaeology’ option for Arabic does not work well because all of the teaching on the early period is done in Michaelmas Term, whereas the Further Subject has to be taught in Trinity Term. A very general title has been chosen for the further subject to allow the teaching staff to be as flexible as possible in their provision. The same title is used for Papers 6 and 7 for Persian/Turkish with Islamic Art and Archaeology, which will be taught in the Trinity Term of the third year of the course and Michaelmas year of the fourth year, and examined with a timed paper and an extended essay.

In 2011 the teachers of Islamic Art and Archaeology will introduce a general survey course on Islamic architecture to be delivered in Michaelmas Term and Hilary Term each year. Michaelmas Term teaching of the survey course supplemented by additional classes will become the basis of Paper 8, the Special Subject written paper for Arabic, while the topic of Paper 9, the extended essay, will be chosen in consultation with the teaching staff. Michaelmas Term and Hilary Term teaching of the survey course will become the basis of Paper 5 for Persian/Turkish with Islamic Art and Archaeology (in the third year of the course).

(ii) It is proposed that these changes take effect from this October, which is possible because the students already on course do not have a vested interest in quite the same way as normal. Please see p. 384, ll. 8-9 where it is stated that not all Further and Special subjects are available in every academic year; the options being removed by these changes are ones for which in any case teaching would not have been available next year. Also, please see p. 384, ll. 41-2 and p. 385 ll. 20-21, where provision is made for options not included in the lists of Further and Special Subjects provided they are listed in the Arabic Handbook. The new options are in the process of being added now.

(iii) The teaching will be provided by the teachers in the Khalili Research Centre, and this reorganisation of the course will improve the efficiency with which they deliver their teaching.

CLV/ZY-G 2 March 2011