

**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 the Quality Assurance Committee on 9 August 2023, and on behalf of Education Committee on 26 September 2023**

**Title of Programme**

Master of Science by Coursework in African Studies

**Brief note about nature of change:**

Changes to core courses and assessment.

**Effective date**

For students starting from Michaelmas 2023

For first examination from 2023/24

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2022-23, Master of Science by Coursework in African Studies* ([ox.ac.uk](http://ox.ac.uk))

**Details of Change:**

Amend citations and re-number as follows:

<sup>1.1</sup>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.

<sup>1.2</sup>2. Each candidate will be required to submit the following written work:

<sup>1.3</sup>(i) One **3,500** ~~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 Friday of Week 7 of Michaelmas Term. The essay must be submitted via the University approved online assessment platform no later than 12 noon on Friday, Week 0 of Hilary Term in the year in which the examination is taken.

**[new citation] (ii) One essay of no more than 3,500 words for the compulsory core course in Disciplines in African Studies selected from a list of questions approved**

by the African Studies Teaching Committee, to be made available to candidates by Friday of Week 8, Michaelmas Term for submission via the University approved online assessment platform not later than 12 noon on Friday, Week 1 of Hilary Term in the year in which the examination is taken.

<sup>1.4</sup>(iii) ~~One essay~~ ~~Two Essays~~ of no more than ~~3,500~~ ~~3,000~~ words ~~for the compulsory core course in Debates in African Studies~~ selected from a list of questions approved by the African Studies Teaching Committee ~~on the core course in Themes in African History and the Social Sciences. The first to be made available to candidates by Friday of Week 8, Michaelmas Term for submission via the University approved online assessment platform not later than 12 noon on Friday, Week 1 of Hilary Term. The second~~ to be made available to candidates by Friday of Week 8, Hilary Term for submission via the University approved online assessment platform not later than 12 noon on Monday, Week 1 of Trinity Term.

<sup>1.5</sup>(iii) One ~~14,000~~ ~~12,000~~ to 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 ninth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the year in which the examination is taken. An electronic version of the dissertation must be submitted via the University approved online assessment platform not later than 12 noon on Friday of Week 8 of Trinity Term. The electronic copy must be anonymous and submitted in Word format.

<sup>1.6</sup>(iv) One 4,500 word essay for one option paper, selected from a list of at least eight questions prepared by the course convenor and made available to candidates by Monday of Week 6 of Hilary Term. The essay must be submitted via the University approved online assessment platform not later than 12 noon on Friday, Week 3 of Trinity Term.

~~<sup>1.7</sup>For students taking the “The Politics of Film in Africa” option, assessment will consist of:-~~

~~<sup>1.8</sup>i) a 4,500 word essay as described above;-~~

~~<sup>1.9</sup>ii) a short film of about 3-4 minutes on an issue related to significant themes on the course.-~~

~~<sup>1.10</sup>iii) a critical 2,000 word treatment to accompany the film.-~~

## Schedule

<sup>1.11</sup>The structure of the course is as follows:

<sup>1.12</sup>(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.

<sup>1.13</sup>(b) *Compulsory core course in Themes in African History and the Social Sciences Disciplines in African Studies:* ~~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.~~ the evolution of African states; the rise and fall of colonial rule, social and economic change and the dilemmas of development; politics, globalisation and conflict in the post-colonial era.

[new citation] (c) Compulsory core course in Debates in African Studies: thematic enquiries into the social, political, cultural and economic dynamics that shape the African continent today; historical perspectives on the present; global context and comparisons between Africa and other regions.

1.14 (ed) *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.

#### 1.15 **Oxford 1+1 MBA programme**

1.16 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.

1.17 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:

1.18(i) Normally two meetings during the bridging programme with the senior advisor appointed by the Saïd Business School at the start of the Oxford 1+1 MBA programme.

1.19(ii) A formatively assessed Integrative Development Plan of up to 3,000 words. Candidates would be required to critically reflect on their learning from the Masters programme and relate this both to their forthcoming MBA programme as well as to their career goals. The meetings with the advisor will frame the design, delivery and discussion of the plan.

1.20(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**

The current course *Themes in African History and the Social Sciences* is taught across Michaelmas term and Hilary term, and is assessed twice: once at the beginning of Hilary and once beginning of Trinity. The first and second halves of the course have conventionally taken different approaches; the proposal is to split the course into two halves (*Disciplines in African Studies* and *Debates in African Studies*), both will have separate assessments. The content taught in each term will remain the same (the new descriptions are available in the schedule). The assessments will be assessing the same content and skills as they do now, however each essay is being increased to 3,500 words to create consistency across the programme's assessment.

Other word-counts have been amended to create consistency throughout the course.

*The Politics of Film in Africa* option details have been removed as this will not be offered going forward.