THE PH.D. IN FRENCH DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Department of French and Italian
University of California, Davis

Revised November 9, 2004
Approved by Graduate Council on November 22, 2004

PREREQUISITES

• A B.A. in French or its equivalent from an accredited college or university.

REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED COURSES

• 12 Graduate seminars, **minimum**, to be selected in concert with Graduate Advisor or the student's mentor. Students are encouraged to take courses outside of the department, relevant to their course of study, chosen in consultation with their mentor or the graduate advisor. There is no specific limit to the number of courses that may be taken outside the department. However, students should be mindful of the necessity of acquiring significant breadth of knowledge in the field of French Studies.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Over and above the necessary advanced skills in French and English, doctoral candidates are required to show competence in at least one further significant literary language. The department believes that it is in the students’ best interest to study formally an additional language for a number of reasons. The knowledge of another language develops research abilities beyond French and English, adds a comparative component to research in both linguistics and literature, and provides an opportunity to gain further insight into the language-learning process. In addition, the student should also consider that to obtain a teaching position in today’s competitive market, the ability to teach more than one language is a valuable asset. Finally, candidates should be aware that, depending on the subject chosen for the dissertation, further language skills (beyond French, English and a third language) may be needed as a research tool. For example, a knowledge of Arabic or Vietnamese may be relevant for some research endeavors.

The language requirement may be satisfied in one of several ways:

1 The graduate advisor refers to the faculty member who oversees day-to-day functioning of the graduate program, including advising of new students. The mentor refers to the faculty member chosen by the student to serve as an advisor until the major professor is chosen, who will normally direct the dissertation. The mentor and the major professor may be the same person.
1. By passing reading examinations (with dictionary) in two of the following languages: Italian, Spanish, German, Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese, Latin, Ancient Greek or other approved language.

2. By passing with at least a B+ the highest intermediate language course in one of the following languages: Italian (ITA 5), Spanish (SPA 22), German (GER 21), Russian (RUS 6), Latin (LAT 3), or Greek (GRK 3), or, with at least a B, any higher language course (except conversation courses) or a literature course in the original language. Courses in the elementary sequence need not be taken for a grade.

3. By passing an examination (without dictionary) corresponding to the level of the last intermediate course in one of the following languages: Italian, Spanish, German, Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese, Latin, Greek, or other approved language with a grade of at least a B+.

**DESIGNATED EMPHASES**
The French Department is affiliated with four designated emphases. Completion of a DE greatly enhances both graduate studies in general and the candidate’s marketability upon completion of the Ph.D. For these reasons, the department encourages students to pursue a DE in a field related to her/his area of interest. In many cases, some of the 12 units required of the DE may count toward the Ph.D. in French. For further information concerning specific program requirements, please consult the director or graduate staff assistant of the DE.

The Four Designated Emphases
Classics and the Classical Tradition
Critical Theory
Feminist Theory and Research
Second Language Acquisition

**EVALUATION**

Upon the completion of every graduate seminar in the French department, faculty will provide a one-paragraph summary of the strengths and weaknesses of each student’s performance in the seminar, in particular with reference to the research project completed. These summary paragraphs will become part of the student’s permanent internal record.

The department strongly discourages Incompletes. For this reason, departmental policy requires that Incomplete grades incurred during any part of the academic year be removed by the following September 1, **if the student wants to continue to serve as a Teaching Assistant in the department. At the end of the Spring quarter, graduate students with Incompletes are required to inform the graduate advisor in writing about their plans to remove the Incomplete.**

Once a year, at the beginning of the Winter Quarter, the Graduate Advisor will chair a meeting of the Faculty for an evaluation of each graduate student. The student's performance in courses, general intellectual ability and promise will be discussed by all concerned, with specific references to the summary paragraphs generated by the work in seminars. The consensus of
opinion will be communicated in writing by the Graduate Advisor to the student as a “progress” report.

It must be stressed that this evaluation process is advisory and is intended to inform the graduate student early in his/her career (and periodically thereafter) of strengths and weaknesses and, optimally, of ways in which such weaknesses may be remedied. In addition, the evaluation will serve as a reminder of any remaining unfulfilled degree requirements. The student would also know how he/she stands in the collective opinion of the Faculty.

Any student who feels that his/her evaluation has been premature and/or unfair may request to be evaluated again at the beginning of the Spring Quarter.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In order to prepare for the exigencies of a college teaching career, students are required to enroll in a teaching practicum, related to the specific course in which they are serving as a teaching assistant.

390A (2 units), 390B (2 units) and 390C (2 units): "Teaching of French in College," in conjunction with one year of teaching as Teaching Assistant, Language Assistant, or Associate-In.

CHOOSING A MENTOR

Students are asked to choose, however tentatively, an area of research specialization by the end of the first year in the program. Once this selection has been made, the student, in concert with the graduate advisor, chooses a faculty member to serve as mentor. The student and mentor work closely together in designing a program of studies leading to a broad preparation not only for the Qualifying Examination and the doctoral dissertation and eventual research, but also for a professional career in which one is often required to teach in many areas outside one's specialization.

AREA REQUIREMENTS

COURSE OF STUDY

A. RECOMMENDED COURSE OF STUDY IN LITERATURE

In addition to the common required courses listed above, students in the literature track must take:

- Critical Theory 200A Approaches to Critical Theory
- One seminar in French linguistics

In conjunction with the graduate advisor, and later with the mentor, students choose a course of study that will enable both a general knowledge of the history of French literature and specialization in one of the literary sub-fields. Thus, the course of study should balance the student’s specific interests in a particular area with the attempt to gain a broad and comprehensive knowledge of the history of French literature.
The example below illustrates a **possible** plan of study. (Because course offerings and areas of interest vary, your choices may differ). A worksheet, indicating all Ph.D. requirements, is provided at the end of the handbook, on which you may plan your course of study.

**First Year**
Fall Quarter  205A Sixteenth-Century Literature: The Humanists  
    208A Nineteenth-Century Literature: Fiction  
    390A Teaching Practicum

Winter Quarter  251 Trends in French Contemporary Linguistics  
    204 Topics in Medieval Literature  
    390B Teaching Practicum

Spring Quarter  207A Eighteenth-Century Literature: Philosophies  
    Critical Theory 200A Approaches to Critical Theory  
    390C Teaching Practicum  
    SPAN 002 (begin studying another language)

**Second Year**
Fall Quarter  211 Studies in Criticism  
    209A Twentieth-Century: Prose  
    SPAN 003

Winter Quarter  210 Studies in Narrative Fiction  
    Course outside the department in related field—possibly to fulfill a DE requirement  
    SPAN 21

Spring Quarter  208B Nineteenth-Century Literature: Poetry  
    206B Seventeenth-Century Literature: Prose  
    SPAN 22 (for grade to satisfy language requirement)

**Third Year**  Some students may require additional seminars during a third year of course work. This may include courses for completion of DE requirements, further specialization in a chosen sub-field and/or the filling in of gaps with respect to the history of French literature.

**B. RECOMMENDED COURSE OF STUDY IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS**
Students who wish to specialize in French language and linguistics are offered a variety of basic and advanced courses in both the French and Linguistics Programs. In addition, if necessary, students may take classes in the Philosophy of Language and Formal Logic offered by the Department of Philosophy.

The program of study is comprised of 4 required courses and at least 8 courses that may be chosen according to the focus of the student’s interest in pursuing research for the completion of her/his doctoral dissertation.
I. Required courses:

FRE 201: History of French language
LIN 203A Modern Linguistic Theory: Structuralism
LIN 203B Modern Linguistic Theory: Generative Grammar
FRE 251. Topics in French Linguistics (in alternate years):
   French Morphosyntax; and/or: Linguistics for Students of Literature

II. Choose at least four of the following courses:

FRE 251. Topics in French Linguistics (in alternate years):
   French Morphosyntax; and/or
   Linguistics for Students of Literature
LIN 220. Romance Linguistics
LIN 205A-205B-205C-205D. Topics in Linguistic Theory and Methods
   Pragmatics
   Discourse Analysis
   Teaching Methods
LIN 131. Introduction to Syntactic Theory
LIN 141. Semantics
LIN 211. Advanced Phonological Theory and Analysis
LIN 231. Advanced Syntactic Theory and Analysis

III. Choose at least 3 from the following courses:

LIN 212. Advanced Phonetics
LIN 231. Advanced Syntactic Theory and Analysis
LIN 241. Advanced Semantic Theory and Analysis
LIN 163. Language, Gender, and Society
LIN 165. Introduction to Applied Linguistics
LIN 175. Biological Basis of Language
FRE 151. Topics in French Linguistics

IV. Choose at least one of the following courses:

FRE 204 Topics in French Medieval Literature
FRE 205A Sixteenth-Century Literature: The Humanists
FRE 206B Seventeenth-Century Literature: Prose
FRE 207A Eighteenth-Century Literature: Philosophies
FRE 208A Nineteenth-Century Literature: Fiction
FRE 208B Nineteenth-Century Literature: Poetry
FRE 209B Twentieth-Century Theatre
FRE 224 Francophone Literature
FIRST-YEAR EXAMINATION
During the spring quarter of the first year of study, all students are required to take a preliminary exam focused on analytical abilities. This exam is designed to assess the student’s strengths and weaknesses after one year of study in order to facilitate course selection and advising for the remainder of the course work for the Ph.D.

LITERATURE
Students in literature will be asked to choose one canonical literary text to prepare for the examination. Students should submit their choice of literary text to the graduate advisor in literature by the second week of the winter quarter for approval by the graduate committee. In addition to the literary text, students will also read and prepare a selection of short theoretical texts on which they will be examined.

Two weeks prior to the planned examination, the student will suggest names of three faculty examiners, including one person designated as chair, to the graduate advisor in literature who will appoint three faculty members to serve as the examination committee. On the day of the examination, the student will receive a selection of questions, tailored to the texts prepared, and be given one hour to prepare notes. After this preparation period, the oral exam will be held, in which the student will respond to the written questions. The exam will be conducted in both French and English.

If the student does not perform in a satisfactory manner, demonstrating an understanding of the literary text and applications of theoretical methods in literary analysis, the committee will require that the student repeat the exam in fall quarter of the following year. The First Year Examination may only be taken twice. Failure to pass the examination on a second try will result in termination of the program.

LINGUISTICS
Students in language and linguistics will be asked to choose a selection of short theoretical texts to prepare for the examination. Students should submit their choice of texts to the graduate advisor in linguistics by the second week of the winter quarter for approval by the graduate committee.

Two weeks prior to the planned examination, the student will suggest names of three faculty examiners, including one person designated as chair, to the graduate advisor in linguistics, who will appoint three faculty members to serve as the examination committee. On the day of the examination, the student will receive a selection of questions or analytical problems, tailored to the texts prepared, and be given one hour to prepare notes. After this preparation period, the oral exam will be held, in which the student will respond to the written questions. The exam will be conducted in both French and English.

If the student does not perform in a satisfactory manner, demonstrating an understanding of the application of theoretical methods in linguistic analysis, the committee will require that the student repeat the exam in fall quarter of the following year. The First Year Examination may only be taken twice. Failure to pass the examination on a second try will result in termination of the program.
QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
Once a student has passed the First Year Examination, she/he is eligible to take the qualifying examination.

A. Qualifying Examination in Literature
The qualifying examination for the Ph.D. in literature has two distinct parts: a written examination and a prospectus for the dissertation. The written examination is structured around four distinct subject areas chosen and defined by the candidate in close consultation with her/his mentor. In each subject area, the candidate will construct a reading list, tailored to her/his specific research interests. Lists should contain approximately 10-15 primary texts and 10-15 secondary sources, knowledge of which should represent significant mastery of the specific field. The relation between these four areas and the field of prospective specialization should, however, not be conceived too narrowly or mechanically. While the student's selection should certainly not be arbitrary, the department encourages him/her to be creative and flexible, keeping in mind that among the important goals of a graduate education in the humanities, an important one is the development of a broad historical perspective and the cultivation of well-informed critical impulses.

The purpose of the written examination portion of the qualifying examination is twofold: the examination provides sound grounding in the history of French literature and a means of making connections between texts and ideas, and it also provides an opportunity to gain an understanding of texts within an intellectual and critical history. We believe strongly that it is to the student’s advantage to be innovative and flexible in selecting subject areas and texts for inclusion on reading lists, while bearing in mind the importance of both historical and generic coverage. The examination should provide an opportunity to reflect on course work, pursue new lines of inquiry and to prepare for the research involved with the dissertation. Ideally, the examination process will ground your post-doctoral research and teaching in the early years of your professional career. Thus, the process of studying for the qualifying exams should be as important as, if not more important than, the examination itself.

Area One: A Historical Period: All candidates in literature are required to choose one historical period as an area of specialization directly related to the proposed topic of the dissertation. Students are advised to choose an area that corresponds to the practices of the discipline in defining research areas, i.e., narrowly conceived historical periods or periods that cross the border between two traditional fields are discouraged for pragmatic reasons. In constructing a list of representative works from the historical period, candidates should be mindful of considerations of genre and breadth. Area One should provide the candidate with a solid grounding and competence in the social and cultural history of the proposed dissertation area.

Area Two: Genre with a Critical Focus: All candidates in literature should choose a genre, possibly related to their eventual dissertation topic, with special emphasis on a particular critical problem or focus. The focus may be conceived either formally, thematically or critically, but should serve as the organizing principle behind the genre list. The genre list is intended to be diachronic, but need not include all periods of French literature. Examples of a genre with a critical focus might include “the representation of violence in theatre,” or “self-representation in narrative” or “meter in poetry”
Area Three: Critical Theory: All candidates in literature are required to construct a critical theory reading list. While the list should include major works of literary theory, it may also reflect areas specific to the dissertation.

Area Four: Theme across 2-3 Historical Periods: Finally, candidates should choose a theme (not already encompassed by the critical focus in Area Two, nor too closely tied to the historical period in Area One) to be explored across 2 or 3 historical periods. For example, the theme of travel could be studied in the early modern period, roughly the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. The historical periods in area four need not be continuous, for example, one could choose the sonnet form in the sixteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

N.B. Students interested in combining interests in literature and linguistics, or one of the subject areas represented in the four DEs, should take advantage of the flexible structure of the qualifying examination areas in order to reflect those interests. Thus, a student might combine interests in pragmatics, for example, within the genre selection in Area Two or the theme in Area Four.

Candidates are required to provide a short written justification of the choices made in the four areas which must be submitted to and approved by the members of the qualifying examination committee at least two months prior to the scheduled exam. The examination committee will review the justification to ensure broad historical coverage, as well as considerations of multiple genres and appropriate critical awareness. In some cases, students may be asked to redefine subject areas. All committee members will signal their approval of the examination reading lists by initialing a copy of the lists that will then be placed in the student's examination dossier.

B. Qualifying Examination in French Language and Linguistics

The qualifying examination for the Ph.D. in linguistics has two distinct parts: a written examination and a prospectus for the dissertation. The written examination for the Ph.D. in French language and linguistics is structured around five distinct subject areas chosen and defined by the candidate in close consultation with her/his mentor. In each subject area, the candidate will construct a reading list, tailored to her/his specific research interests. Lists should be divided into two parts: (i) Basic readings, which will contain approximately 20-25 major books, representing the most important works on French language (history, morpho-syntax, semantics, discourse analysis) and linguistic theory and models developed within the American and European traditions; (ii) a Reference list including books or articles related to the field of research and the four areas chosen for the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination.

The area of research must include two domains:

1) History of French
2) French Morpho-syntax.

The other three areas may be chosen, according to the student’s research interests, from the following disciplines:

- Semantics
- Phonology
- Pragmatics
- Discourse Analysis
- Language Acquisition
- Linguistics and Literary Analysis
The relation between these five areas and the field of prospective specialization should, however, not be conceived too narrowly or mechanically. While the student's selection should certainly not be arbitrary, the department encourages him/her to be creative and flexible, keeping in mind that among the important goals of a graduate education in the humanities, an important one is the development of a broad perspective on the contemporary models and theories and the cultivation of well-informed critical skills.

The purpose of the qualifying examination is to provide sound grounding in linguistic theories and methods and their evolution in the 20th century, especially as applied to French language. The examination is an opportunity to reflect on course work, pursue new lines of inquiry and to prepare for the research involved with the dissertation. Ideally, the process of studying for the qualifying exams should be as important as, if not more important than the examination itself.

**STRUCTURE OF THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (all students)**

After all of the requirements listed above have been completed, the candidate will propose a Qualifying Examination Committee, to be appointed by Graduate Studies in accordance with Academic Senate regulations. This Committee will consist of five members, at least one of whom shall normally be from outside the Department of French and Italian; it will also include the designated major professor, who may not act as Chair. Students enrolled in one of the four DEs are required to have a DE faculty member on the qualifying examination committee. The names of all five members will be selected by the graduate advisor, in consultation with the candidate and the major professor, and recommended by the Graduate Advisor to the Graduate Program Committee.

**Prospectus**

The candidate is required to draw up a provisional outline of the planned dissertation and to submit this outline, which should contain a brief justification of the project, a description of the critical context, a review of existing scholarship and a discussion of goals and methodology (20-30 pages, in most cases in literature; 10-15 pages, in most cases in language and linguistics) to the five members of the committee for their approval. Preparation of the prospectus usually entails close consultation with the mentor, as well as members of the committee, and may require numerous drafts and revisions. The final version of the dissertation prospectus must be turned in 14 days before the written examination begins.

The qualifying examination consists of two parts, one written and one oral. The written examination is taken on two separate days, in no case more than seven days apart. The oral examination will be scheduled no more than fourteen days following the second half of the written exam.

The oral examination, which will be conducted in French and English, will last a maximum of three hours. The exam will cover the four selected areas in literature or the five selected areas in linguistics and will serve as supplement to the written examination. In addition, the student will be asked to discuss the dissertation prospectus. Immediately after the examination, the committee members will briefly consult with each other and announce their decision to pass or not pass the candidate.
The chair of the examination committee will provide a written summary of the comments and evaluations made by the examining committee shortly following the exam. Candidates are also encouraged to have follow-up conversations with all members of the examining committee.

NOTE: All "Incomplete" grades must be removed before the candidate may take the Qualifying Examination. (See Regulations of Graduate Studies concerning "I" grades.)

DISSERTATION

The Ph.D. dissertation must be an original and substantial contribution to French studies. Upon passing the Qualifying Examination, the previously designated major professor assumes responsibility for the candidate's further progress. The Dissertation Committee (approved by the Graduate Program Committee and submitted to Graduate Studies for approval in accordance with Academic Senate regulations) is composed of at least three faculty members. Students enrolled in one of the four Designated Emphases should consult with either the chair or the graduate staff assistant of the DE to ensure that they have fulfilled the DE dissertation requirements. During the preparation of the dissertation, the committee should meet regularly with the candidate to discuss progress and provide guidance. At the very least, the committee should be convened once every academic year.

A revised and amplified plan for the dissertation will be submitted to the Dissertation Committee for consideration and approval, and should include a description of the project and a critical bibliography. After a candidate's Committee has approved such a plan, any fundamental change must be declared in writing and approved by the entire committee. It is expected that the dissertation will be completed and filed within three (3) years after the candidate has successfully taken and passed his/her qualifying exam. Should the candidate fail to complete a dissertation within this time, he/she will be required to take and pass the qualifying exam a second time. Exceptions for severe hardship may be granted by special request to the Graduate Program Committee of the Department.

When the dissertation is completed, the three committee members sign on the title page to indicate their approval. After its approval, the candidate is required to deposit one copy of the dissertation with Graduate Studies and one copy with the Department of French and Italian.

NOTE: While the work on the dissertation is supervised by a committee of three professors, primary responsibility for close supervision and guidance of the project rests with the major professor. Individual chapters or parts of the dissertation should be submitted to the two or three readers only after they have been reviewed, corrected, and annotated by the major professor. The same holds true for the submission of the final version. Any deviation from this arrangement needs the approval of all three committee members.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Ph.D. credit granted for Upper Division courses outside the Department
With the approval of the Graduate Advisor, a Ph.D. student may be permitted to take Upper Division courses outside the Department for credit towards the Ph.D., on the following conditions:

a) The subject-matter shall be positively germane to the student's area of research;

b) It shall be ascertained that no graduate course in the subject is available;

c) The instructor of the course shall agree in advance to require graduate-level work from the student;

d) The student shall be graded on a scale appropriate to graduate performance.

2. Ph.D. Students and "297/299" courses

a) Normally, no student may take a 297 or 299 in his/her first year of graduate study at UCD.

b) Prior to passing the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination, a candidate preparing for the Doctorate may take no more than ONE course (maximum of 4 units) in the 297 or 299 series in a given year, and 297 may be taken only in a topic which has not recently been offered in a formal seminar.

c) If a candidate has already proposed a Ph.D. Dissertation Topic to the Graduate Curriculum Committee, and if this topic has been approved, s/he may take one additional course in the 299 series on the recommendation of the faculty member who has agreed to direct her/his dissertation.

d) 297 and 299 courses cannot be used for the satisfaction of the minimum requirement of twelve graduate seminars.

e) After a student has passed the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination, s/he may take an unlimited number of courses in the 299 series.

NOTE: It is a department policy NOT to give 297 or 299 courses in those fields in which regular Graduate Seminars have been held during the period of a student's program of study in the Department. The exception to this would relate to Graduate Seminars held during the first quarter of the student's residence as a Teaching Assistant.
Worksheet for Doctoral Requirements in French Literature Studies

___________ Language requirement

___________ Linguistics Course

___________ Critical Theory 200A

Nine Additional Courses (minimum)

___________  ____________  ____________

___________  ____________  ____________

___________  ____________  ____________

Four Areas:

1. Historical Period:

2. Genre with Critical Focus:

3. Critical Theory

4. Theme across 2-3 Periods