

University of Pittsburgh

**Department of French and Italian
Languages and Literatures**

Graduate Policy

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(T.R. / F.S.)

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I. DEGREES OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT

- A. Master of Arts
- B. Doctor of Philosophy

II. FIELDS OF STUDY FOR THE M.A. AND PH.D. DEGREES

Masters Degree:

French Language and Literature
 Italian Language and Literature
 Accelerated Certification Track (MA in French or Italian with PA teacher's certification)

Ph.D. Degree:

French Language and Literature

Concentration is offered in
 Romance Languages and Literatures

Tracks are offered in
 Literature and the Arts
 Literature and Politics

III. THE MAJOR ADVISER

The director of graduate studies functions as the adviser for all M.A. and for the new doctoral candidates. After the initial registration, doctoral students may be advised by any departmental faculty member who will agree to the responsibility. Students must acquaint themselves with the requirements set forth in the current Graduate Bulletin of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, as well as with this statement. It is the students' responsibility to see that their folders are kept up to date and to initiate all necessary steps leading toward their graduate degrees.

IV. PROGRAMS OF STUDY

A. M.A. IN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

A minimum of eight one-term courses in French literature and culture is required, of which at least six must be 2000-level courses. French 2710 (Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory) is required for all students. French 2970 (Teaching of French) is required for students holding a Teaching Assistantship or a Teaching Fellowship, but does not count among the eight courses.

Candidates for this degree must also pass comprehensive examinations and fulfill the following additional requirements:

1. **Seminar Paper** This research paper (5,000-8,000 words) is written in French, usually in a course specifically designated as a seminar, but, in

agreement with the professor, it can also be written in a survey course. It must receive a grade of B or better. (See VIII C below)

2. **Second Language. See VII below.**

B. M.A. IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

A minimum of eight one-term courses in Italian literature and culture is required, of which at least seven must be 2000-level courses. Occasionally, a student's particular circumstances, as well as the nature and content of an Italian-taught upper level undergraduate course make it suitable to be taken for credit, but only one such course may count towards the degree. Italian 2710 (Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory) is required of all students. Italian 2970 (Teaching of Italian) is required for students holding a Teaching Assistantship, but does not count among the eight courses. Directed and Independent Studies in Italian are offered upon request, whenever faculty members are available and willing to teach and/or supervise one or more students in a particular area of interest; such courses may be taken in addition to, but not in substitution of, regularly scheduled graduate courses, and only one may count towards the degree. Candidates must also pass comprehensive examinations and fulfill the following requirements:

1. **Research Paper** Each M.A. candidate is required to write a long final paper in Italian (30-40 pages). Students are strongly advised to select one paper from among their completed or ongoing seminar work. The first reader (typically the instructor for whom the work was originally done) will determine its suitability as an example of research methodology and scholarly writing, and will decide whether—with revision and expansion—it can be presented to a second reader, and then to the Department in lieu of a thesis. Students must submit the completed thesis, to the second reader at least 10 days before the deadline for certification of graduation. Such deadline typically falls in mid-December for Fall graduation and in the last week of April or first week of May for Spring graduation.
2. **Second Language** Candidates must demonstrate a reading knowledge of Latin or German or a Romance language other than Italian (other languages will be considered upon petition). This requirement is waived for those students who come to the program with two terms of undergraduate Latin, or four terms of German or a Romance language at Pitt or the equivalent. See also section VII.

C. ACCELERATED CERTIFICATION TRACK (ACT) (FRENCH AND ITALIAN).

Candidates for this degree are enrolled both in the Department of French and Italian in A&S and in the School of Education. They must satisfy requirements in both schools:

Requirements and courses in the Department of French and Italian:

1. FR/IT 2710 (*Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*) and FR/IT 2790 (*Teaching of French/Italian*) are also compulsory courses for this degree.

2. Students must also take five additional courses in French or Italian literature and culture chosen among those offered in the department, of which at least three must be at the 2000-level.
3. The Seminar/Research paper and Second Language Requirements are the same as for a regular MA.

Prerequisites for the School of Education

1. PA Chapter 354 undergraduate course work requirements (3 credits of American OR British literature, 3 credits of English composition, and 6 credits of mathematics)
2. NINE credits of basic areas of education (Psychology of Learning, Sociology of Schooling, and Introduction to Foreign Language Education).
3. ACTFL oral proficiency interview rating of at least an Advanced-Low
4. Overall undergraduate QPA of 3.30
5. Praxis I scores for reading, math, and writing

While enrolled in the MA program

1. Techniques and Procedures of FL Teaching (fall I)
2. Issues in Foreign Language Education (spring I)
3. Foreign Language in the Elementary School (fall II)
4. Principles and Practices of Foreign Language Testing and Assessment (fall II)
5. Students with Disabilities in Secondary Classrooms

By February 1 of the last semester of the French or Italian MA program, students will make formal application to the School of Education for September of the same year of graduation and conferral of the MA degree. Formal acceptance into the School of Education is required in order to continue with the ACT program.

Post-MA: While in the School of Education

After receiving the MA degree, ACT students will be eligible to complete certification requirements in one semester rather than two. During the fall term following graduation, candidates for the certificate will:

1. Participate in student teaching (9 credits),
2. Enroll in the student teaching seminar,
3. Enroll in *Technology in Foreign Language Education* (3 credits), and
4. Take the Praxis II examination.

The student covers all fees associated with pre-requisite courses, application to SOE, testing, and fall semester course work in the School of Education.

Every student in the program must hold a Teaching Assistantship for a minimum of two terms. Beyond this minimum, the Department regulations concerning Teaching Assistantships will be observed.

D. PH.D. IN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE WITH M.A. EN ROUTE

This degree is intended for students who wish to pursue the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in French Language and Literature but who do not already hold an M.A. in this field or in a closely-related discipline. Students must first successfully complete the requirements for the M.A. in French Language and Literature above, normally within their first two years of full-time enrollment. Students doing the Ph.D. with the M.A. *en route* will be awarded an M.A. degree at the completion of these requirements.

To ensure the acquisition of a broad knowledge of French literature and culture, candidates must have had taken at least one course or one exam in each field (Middle Ages, Renaissance, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries and African and Caribbean literatures) before they reach candidacy.

Before students may be considered for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D., they must successfully complete a minimum of five 2000 - level courses (15 credits) beyond the M.A. In addition, the candidate must present an oral *explication de texte* before a faculty committee, and pass written and oral comprehensive examinations. The Ph.D. language requirement will normally be satisfied at the M.A. level (see section VIII) below. Students must also complete two substantial article-length papers (20-30 pages) of publishable quality, one in French and one in English, usually based on papers written in graduate seminars. These two papers must be read and approved by two graduate faculty members. The eight courses must include:

1. History of the French language.
2. Readings in Old and Middle French (FR 2100), if this course or an equivalent has not been taken at the M.A. level.
3. FR 2710 (if not taken at the M.A. level) and take an additional course in literary or cultural theory.
4. Three seminars in which the student writes seminar papers and receives a grade of B+ or higher.
5. With the adviser's consent, students are free to take some of the additional required courses in other departments. Students in French are encouraged to pursue certification in one of the various programs offered by the University (EUCE, Cultural Studies, Film Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Women's Studies). However, only three exterior courses may count towards the degree in French.

Upon admission to candidacy, the candidate will write and defend a doctoral dissertation.

E. PH.D. IN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

This degree is intended for students who already hold an M.A. in French Language and Literature or in a closely-related discipline. Before students may be considered for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D., they must complete successfully a minimum of eight 2000 - level courses (24 credits) beyond the M.A. In addition, the candidate must present an oral *explication de texte* before a faculty committee, satisfy Ph.D. language requirements (see Section VII below), pass written and oral comprehensive examinations. Students must also complete two substantial article-length papers (20-20 pages) of publishable quality, one in French and one in English, usually based on papers written in graduate seminars. These two papers must be read and approved by two graduate faculty

members. To ensure the acquisition of a broad knowledge of French literature and culture, candidates must have had taken at least one course or one exam in each field (Middle Ages, Renaissance, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries and African and Caribbean literatures) before they reach candidacy.

The eight courses must include :

1. History of French language.
2. Readings in Old and Middle French (FR 2100), if this course or an equivalent has not been taken at the M.A. level.
3. FR 2710 (if not taken at the M.A. level) and an additional course in literary or cultural theory.
4. Three seminars in which the student writes seminar papers and receives a grade of B+ or higher.
5. With the adviser's consent, students are free to take some of the additional required courses in other departments. Students in French are encouraged to pursue certification in one of the various programs offered by the University (EUCE, Cultural Studies, Film Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Women's Studies). However, only three exterior courses may count towards the degree in French. Under special circumstances, one of these courses may be a 1000-level course.

Upon admission to candidacy, the candidate will write and defend a doctoral dissertation.

F. PHD IN FRENCH: CONCENTRATION IN ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Candidates for this concentration will typically already hold an MA in one of the Romance languages and literatures, or the equivalent and will, upon entering the program, choose two major linguistic areas, and one minor linguistic area from among the four language areas (French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish). Portuguese may not be used as one of the major areas, and one of the major areas must be French.

Candidates for this concentration are expected to have a strong preparation in French upon entering the program. The student will also choose a major and a minor period from among the following four periods: 1) Middle Ages, 2) Renaissance and Baroque, 3) Enlightenment, Romanticism and Realism (18th and 19th centuries to 1848), 4) Modern/Post Modern. If Spanish is one of the major linguistic areas, the student will also choose, as appropriate, between the peninsular and Latin American areas.

The candidate will then take at least three 2000-level courses in each of the two major linguistic areas, and at least two 1000-level courses in the third area. At least one of these courses will be a 2000-level course in linguistics in one of the major fields (a course in the History of the Language or in Comparative Romance Linguistics is recommended). At least three of these courses should involve the writing of a long (or seminar-type) paper of 20-30 pages, and one of these papers must be written in English.

Initially, the candidate will be advised by the Director of Graduate Studies in French. After a preliminary examination, taken sometime in the first year, the student will choose an advisor working in the major period in one of the two major areas. That advisor will guide the candidate in choosing courses and elaborating reading lists for the

comprehensive examinations, and will oversee the preparation and grading of those examinations. This advisor is likely to be the intended dissertation director, but that is not necessary.

The dissertation committee should include one faculty member with expertise in each of the three major period/areas. In all cases, the choice of linguistic areas and periods will be limited by the availability of faculty and course offerings in the various departments.

It is expected that every candidate will teach at least one language course in each of his or her major linguistic areas before completing the degree.

G. PHD IN FRENCH: TRACK IN LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

It is increasingly difficult to think about and study literature in isolation from other aspects of the culture of its time and place. One way to provide literary studies the cultural coordinates that contextualize literature and make it meaningful is by studying its relation to the other arts. To do this, the study of literature will need to take into account issues of style and periodization from the field of esthetics, and it also means that issues of epistemology can be explored by studying the ways different cultures translate between different media or arts. How does literature express color and shape; what does the literature of a given time and place find important enough to describe? To what extent can illustration aid in interpreting a literary text? The ambiguity of words designating colors in earlier times teaches us how imprecise the discrimination was between different colors in earlier societies, and how rare were the vibrant colors that we now take for granted in everyday life. The way that 19th-century French culture illustrated Shakespeare's plays or Rabelais, or Ariosto, both in editions of them, and in independent paintings, tells a great deal about the way French society read, and, more important, visualized, the works of the Renaissance at that time. Studying literature and art in relation to each other can reveal not only elements of the mechanics of creation, but also of the reception of works in different media by the people for whom they were created.

The candidate working in this concentration will write a dissertation that works between two or more of the arts. The rest of the PhD program should prepare the candidate to conceive and execute a dissertation of a high degree of theoretical sophistication, and with some in-depth knowledge of at least two fields. One of these fields will be French literature, and some area of French literature will provide the central focus of the dissertation. The other field could be the visual arts, and most generally painting. But it could also be cinema, opera, or theater, understood as spectacle rather than literature. Specific dissertation topics might deal with illustration, with such combinations of picture and text, as technopaegma, emblems, calligrams, or concrete poetry. Or the literary text could be studied as it is transformed into a stage or operatic production. For a student with particularly strong skills in art-historical analysis it might be appropriate to study the literary background of paintings, say from the second school of Fontainebleau of the Romantic movement in the first half of the 19th century. Finally, this track can provide a stimulating and novel perspective from which graduate students

in French can approach the relations between cinema and literature.

Students should make a decision to pursue this track early in their graduate studies, and not later than the end of the first year of PhD course-work. Ideally, the candidate for this track will already have done some work in art history, musicology, or cinema before entering the program. And during residency the student will take two or three courses in one of these fields in another department, in addition to the eight 2000-level courses required for the PhD in French.

Appropriate courses might include:

English 2118: Allegory and Iconography
 English 2451: Film History/Theory
 English 2460: Film and Literature
 German 2884: Weimar Cinema
 HAA 2330: Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts
 HAA 2310: Art and Politics in 17th Century Rome
 Music 2411: Medieval and Renaissance Notation
 Philosophy 2370: Aesthetics

Among the courses in French, the candidate will take one track core course that will either be offered every two years or will be available as a directed study and that offers an overview of the issues involved in this track: an introduction to the idea of style and the problems involved in defining a period style across more than one art form (this section will include the study of one of two examples of period style, e. g., Baroque, Romanticism and Realism, surrealism, emblems and emblematics; *ut pictura poesis*, the problem of ephrasis and description; the illusion of that natural sign; Lessing's *Laocoon*, the staged representation of texts or oral/formulaic compositions such as epic recitation or *commedia dell'arte* illustration; Mallarmé, Benjamin on reproduction, Ruskin on engraving; illustrated books like Gide's *Voyage d'Urien*; poets who were also artists, like Henri Michaux and Michel Butor; poems on/for paintings or engravings; examples from Henri Baude, Ronsard, Baudelaire, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Jacques Rancière; spectacle and literature; literature and film, literature and performance; music and literature; opera; program music).

In addition, the student will wish, according to the period specialization, to be alert for courses on medieval manuscript illustration in the art history department or cinema and contemporary French culture either in our department or some other. The candidate will also meet all other requirements for the PhD in French, including both those set by the department and those that are FAS or University-wide.

H. PHD IN FRENCH: TRACK IN LITERATURE AND POLITICS

This concentration is dedicated to studying literary representations in their political context. The set of courses offered in this area all analyze the complex interaction between literary works and social reality. These courses, examine how literature reflects

a certain image of the social order, while, at the same time it influences the image a society has of itself. This track allows students to develop their own conceptualization of the interconnection between literature and politics by studying, for example, figures ranging from the medieval cleric, the Renaissance humanist and the Enlightenment philosophe to the Romantic poet, the intellectual and the postmodern theorist.

Our courses combine two approaches to the question of the relations between literature and politics. Some focus on the way literary works (often implicitly) represent the socio-political order through the way they depict the place of the individual in society. Whether they tend to strengthen and support this order, or on the contrary tend to question and disrupt it, most poems, plays, novels and films carry with them an implicit assessment of the way individuals are made to fit within the structures and hierarchies prevalent at each period. Other courses focus on the way writers have explicitly addressed political issues: while poets, playwrights, novelists and filmmakers often directly comment upon socio-political issues, political theorists also have recourse to rhetorical tools directly drawn from literary devices. Starting from close textual analysis, our courses both situate literature in a political perspective and look at political discourse from a literary and rhetorical point of view.

Although our students are invited (and required) to take courses in Political Science, History, Philosophy, or Film Studies to complement their knowledge and diversify their approaches, our core courses offer them a perspective which is specific to a literary program. As literary scholars, we are in a unique position to study the multifarious manifestations of the social imagination.

In addition to what are usually considered literary texts (poetry, theater, novels), our approach also includes other types of discourses and narratives (political treatises, pamphlets, newspaper articles, films) where this representation of the political order takes place. While our courses tend to focus on material produced in the French-speaking world, some issues can only be understood when situated within a wider European context, which is why some of the courses that satisfy the concentration reach across national and linguistic borders.

Among the topics discussed in this track, one can list such themes as: the place of the individual in medieval society; the image of the ruler in medieval writings (as manifested in the "mirrors of princes", letters to Kings and in the literature of the Hundred Years War); the images of the body politic in medieval and early modern France; the evolution of the relationship between the citizen and the State; the political imagination of the Enlightenment; the role of the Intellectuals in modern French society; issues of style and responsibility in post-war France; the politics of difference and identity in contemporary French fiction. (Some of these topics constitute the central object of a course, while others are presented as sub-themes within a broader survey.)

By studying the representations of political issues, approached in the primary texts within their historical context, this track produces degrees which combine a solid and

wide knowledge of European political history with an original reflection on the place of literature in contemporary societies.

I. CONCENTRATION STRUCTURE

Students concentrating in this area must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Out of eight courses that have to be taken with a letter grade, and four that can be audited, at least six have to come from the list of courses qualifying for this concentration. Consult with the director of graduate studies on which courses count toward the concentration.
2. Between two to four courses have to be taken in a department other than French and Italian (in the departments of Political Science, History, Philosophy, German, Spanish, Slavic, English as well as in the Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Women's Studies, West European Studies and Cultural Studies programs).
3. The comprehensive examinations are designed on the same format as those of a regular PhD in French languages and literatures. However, the topics of research have to fit the perspective developed in the area of concentration.
4. Dissertations can either focus on one specific point of interaction between literature and politics studied through different periods, or focus on a particular question linking politics and literature within one single period (or one single author).

V. EXCHANGES, RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE OPTIONS

A. EXCHANGE POSITIONS

Students interested in going on exchange positions established with foreign universities should discuss this issue with the director of graduate studies, and submit an application by October of the preceding academic year. The application should take the form of a letter explaining what the student hopes to gain from spending a year abroad, and what specific goals will be reached by the end of the exchange year. The director of graduate studies will lead an ad hoc committee in charge of reviewing the applications, and of selecting the students whose case appears the strongest.

MA students selected for an exchange with a foreign university will thereby earn a third year of financial support since the faculty believes that any student at this level can profit simply from the experience of living and working in France.

At the Ph.D. level, the application letter should take the form of a detailed research proposal, spelling out precise and measurable goals for the year spent abroad.

B. RESIDENCE AND GRADES

For the residence requirements, see “General Regulations” in the current Graduate Bulletin. www.umc.pitt.edu/bulletins/graduate/index.html

A “B-” grade in a required course must be eliminated by repetition of the course.

VI. COURSE LOAD

A. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All full-time students (and TAs and TFs must be full-time students) are required to register for at least three courses (9 credits) per term for a letter grade. At least six of these credits must count toward course requirements for the degree. The remaining three credits can be taken in FRIT, or in another department at the 1000 or 2000-level. TAs and TFs may register for a maximum of five courses (15 credits). If students register as auditors for a course (above and beyond the nine credits required), they are expected to do the reading for the course and take an active part in class discussions.

ABDs who hold a Teaching Fellowship are required to audit at least one course per term in the Department, or they can choose to participate more actively in only one course per year. In the latter case, they have to agree with the instructor on the modalities and the extent of their involvement in the course. Students holding pre-dissertation fellowships are not required to audit courses.

B. DIRECTED STUDIES

Directed studies will be granted in exceptional cases at the discretion of the faculty.

VII. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the M.A. must give evidence of ability to read Latin, German, or a Romance Language other than their major language (French or Italian). Students may petition to the DGS to have another language appropriate to the course of study count (e.g., Creole, Wolof, Arabic, Ancient Greek). Candidates can fulfill the language requirement by satisfactorily passing a translation exam, a two-term graduate reading course, or the equivalent of a fourth-semester language course (with a grade of “B” or better). Other types of documentation may be accepted by the DGS.

Candidates for the Ph.D. in French Languages and Literature must give evidence of ability to read German, Latin, or a Romance language other than their major language (French or Italian). Students may petition to the DGS to have another language appropriate to the course of study count (e.g., Creole, Wolof, Arabic, Ancient Greek). Students who have satisfied the language requirement during the M.A. will be considered to have fulfilled this requirement for the Ph.D. Students may be required by their dissertation advisor to have a reading knowledge of Latin.

M.A. and Ph.D. students may not use undergraduate, elementary language credits as part of the nine credit hours funded students are required to take each semester, and these credits will not count towards the 72 credit hours need in order to enroll in FTDA (full time dissertation study).

VIII. TIMELINE AND EXAMINATIONS FOR FRENCH M.A.

	Fall Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 1	French 2710 2 other graduate seminars	3 seminars M.A. evaluation (see below)	Read for M.A. comprehensive exam
Year 2	3 seminars	2 seminars plus oral and written M.A. comprehensive exam (see below)	

Candidates for all M.A. degrees must take written comprehensive examinations in their program. Students in the French program must also take an oral *explication de texte*. Normally, M.A. candidates will be expected to complete all requirements for the degree by the end of the term in which they take their comprehensives.

The University has established a statute of limitations of four years for M.A. candidates. Although the department adheres to this regulation, it points out that full-time M.A. candidates holding Teaching Assistantships may normally not expect more than two years of financial support.

A. M.A. EVALUATION

At the end of the first full year of coursework, M.A. students will be evaluated by the department. The DGS in French will contact all members of the faculty with whom the student has studied or worked in view of giving feedback to the student about their performance in coursework, their teaching, and their citizenship in the department. This evaluation will be part of the annual report which all graduate students in the department complete in early summer.

B. M.A. READING LIST

The MA Reading List establishes the minimal requirements in each area for preparation of the M.A. comprehensive exams and may be obtained in the department office. This list is intended to guide M.A. candidates in their preparation for the comprehensives.

C. M.A. COMPREHENSIVE EXAM IN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The M.A. Comprehensive is an examination designed to ensure that the candidates have acquired a thorough overall knowledge of French language, culture and literature, as well as a strong competency in literary analysis. It is divided into two sections, a written section and an oral section. There are two parts to the written exam: one a diachronic exam with a large scope, the other a series of more specific, targeted questions including identifications. The written exam will be in French. Each exam is four hours in length and is given on different days. This exam is given once per year, usually the week after spring break.

The oral component of the exam consists of three sections. First, students will present an *explication de texte*. For this exam, students will be given the choice of three short texts and will have 48 hours to prepare their presentation. The *explication de texte* will be done in French and should last approximately 30 minutes. The second part of the oral component will be the occasion for a discussion between faculty and MA candidates about the written comprehensive exams. Finally, faculty and students will discuss the student's seminar paper. This paper (see "IV. Programs Of Study," above) must be distributed to the members of the exam committee at least three weeks in advance of the oral exam. The oral exam will usually take place 1-2 weeks after the written exam.

For further information and the reading list, see the document "Comprehensive Exam for the M.A. in French Language and Literature."

D. POST-M.A. STUDENTS

Students who complete the M.A. in French at the University of Pittsburgh and are subsequently accepted into the French Ph.D. program will follow the timeline below for the Ph.D. with M.A. *en route*, beginning in year 3 of the timeline. All work done for the M.A. (language requirement, coursework, etc.) will be directly applied to the Ph.D. These students will have a preliminary evaluation at the end of their first year in the Ph.D. program (see below). Such students should begin working in the summer after their M.A. exams to formulate reading lists for their comprehensive exams and to articulate a possible Ph.D. project.

IX. M.A. COMPREHENSIVE EXAM IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The M.A. Comprehensive is a written examination designed to ensure that the candidates have acquired a thorough overall knowledge of Italian language, culture and literature, as well as a strong competency in literary analysis. It is divided into three four-hour tests.

Students prepare for the exams on the basis of the reading-list provided to them by the Italian faculty. In preparation for two of the three exams, students concentrate on two different periods of Italian Literature. Students select their periods from the 20th century and/or any combination of two other adjacent centuries. For the third written examination students are asked to prepare for a general, cross-century examination of an issue of his/her choice, relevant to the history of Italian literature and culture (for example: the *questione della lingua*; the origins, development and demise or transformation of a literary genre; Italian identity and migration; the interrelations of literature and another discipline etc.). This exam shall include a theoretical component. Students must consult with the graduate advisor and the faculty member principally responsible for the chosen topic, in order to determine a specific, appropriate reading list for their third exam.

Candidates may take all of their written examinations at the end of their fourth term or may decide to take each of them at a different date, spreading them over the course of one or more semesters. If taken at the end of the fourth term, typically the three written tests are scheduled on alternative days, the week after Spring recess for students graduating in April or the week before Thanksgiving recess for students graduating in December. Students should discuss alternative scheduling and distribution of the tests with

the DGS and petition for approval. However, written examinations should be scheduled so as to be completed at least three weeks prior to the end of the term in which the student wants to graduate.

Upon review of the written examinations, the Italian faculty conducts individual oral interviews with the candidates to inform them of the results and discuss their final paper.

X. ACCELERATED CERTIFICATION TRACK

To obtain their ACT MA **in Italian**, candidates are required to take the following examinations:

1. Written examination in Teaching Methodology
2. Written examination in two out of five periods of Italian Literature
3. Oral interview

To obtain their ACT MA **in French**, candidates are required to take an examination composed of four three-hours written exams and one oral exam:

1. Written examination in Teaching Methodology
2. Cross-century written examination in French Literature
3. Written examination on two fields of French Literature or linguistics to be chosen by the candidate
4. The oral component of the exam consists in two parts. Before the end of the spring semester, students will present an *explication de texte*. For this exam, students will be given the choice of three short texts and will have 48 hours to prepare their presentation. The *explication de texte* will be done in French and should last approximately 30 minutes. The second part of the oral component will be the occasion for a discussion between faculty and MA candidates about their written comprehensive exams.

XI. TIMELINE AND EXAMINATIONS FOR THE PH.D. WITH M.A. EN ROUTE

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	French 2710 2 other seminars	3 seminars Preliminary evaluation	Read for M.A. exam
Year 2	3 seminars	2 seminars plus oral and written M.A. comprehensive exam (see below)	Begin research on dissertation topic, construct reading lists for Ph.D. comprehensive exams
Year 3	3 seminars	2 or 3 seminars <i>Explication de texte</i>	Begin taking comprehensive exams
Year 4	Complete written	Ph.D. oral exam	Write PhD

	Ph.D. comprehensive exams	Complete and defend prospectus Begin writing PhD	
Year 5	Write PhD	Write PhD/Defend PhD	
Year 6 (if necessary)	Write PhD	Defend PhD	

A. PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

In accordance with Graduate School policy, students in their first year of the Ph.D. program will undergo a preliminary evaluation at the end of the first year of full residence. The DGS in French will contact all members of the faculty with whom the student has studied or worked in view of giving feedback to the student about their performance in coursework, their teaching, and their citizenship in the department. The purpose of this evaluation is to identify those students who may be expected to complete a doctoral program successfully, and also to identify deficiencies in the students' preparation. To satisfy this requirement, graduate students in French will meet with their adviser in the second term of residence for an evaluation of the record of performance in their first term on the basis of grades and reports from the students' instructors.

B. M.A. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

In their second year of full-time study, students take M.A. comprehensive exams. See above under M.A. (VIII) for a description of the exams. The exam for students completing the Ph.D. with M.A. *en route* is the equivalent of the "M.A. comprehensive exam" for M.A. students and will be given on the same dates as that exam. Students will receive one of three grades: honors with permission to continue on to the Ph.D., pass with permission to continue on to the Ph.D., conditional pass, or a terminal M.A..

C. EXPLICATION DE TEXTE

Before taking their comprehensive examinations, Ph.D. students must present an oral *explication de texte* in French before a jury comprised of members of the faculty. The student and the chair of the comprehensive examination committee (see "d" below) will agree on a work, or on a series of works, from which the *texte* will be taken. The student will receive the text 48 hours before the presentation is to take place. The student will be allowed to bring to the presentation the book from which the passage is taken as well as his/her notes, but will not be allowed to read his/her presentation. This presentation will be done in French and should last about 30 minutes, after which questions will be asked. If the *explication* is not satisfactory, the student may repeat the exercise once.

Please consult the edited volume Explication de texte (ed. Jean Sareil) while preparing for this exam. The text is available in the department.

D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE PH.D. IN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Candidates must take both written and oral comprehensive examinations. These examinations normally should be passed at least eight months (two terms) before the degree is to be awarded. Students may present themselves for the examinations only after passing all preliminary examinations and language and other requirements, except for courses that are currently being taken.

The University has established a statute of limitations of ten years from the student's initial registration for graduate study or eight years from the initial registration for students holding an M.A. degree. Although the Department adheres to this regulation, it points out that students doing the Ph.D. with M.A. en route can only receive up to **six** years of financial support.

However, to be eligible for a fifth year of support, students must complete their written comprehensive exams during the seventh semester of support, and they must defend their prospectus during the eighth semester. Students should enter candidacy by the end of their eighth semester.

The department will not renew Teaching Fellowships after the students have benefited from **six years** of support (this includes TFships, an exchange year in France, and any competitive fellowships within the University of Pittsburgh).

Students will ask a faculty member in their intended field of specialization to chair their Comprehensive Examination Committee and to serve as the dissertation director. This request must be made no later than March 1 of the academic year preceding the one in which they will take the examination. If the faculty member accepts, s/he will ask at least two other members of the faculty, chosen in agreement with the student, to serve on an ad hoc committee. This committee, composed of at least three members, will guide the candidate in the preparation of reading lists in the areas chosen (see below) and will also supervise the administration of the written and oral examinations. This committee will evaluate the examinations along with other specialists who will be called upon as deemed appropriate by the faculty member chairing the committee.

The exams ensure that the candidate is able to develop a scholarly and original approach to the study of French or Francophone literature and culture in a given period. The exams are also designed to help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for teaching in a college or university environment by addressing periods outside the area of specialization and by creating a balance between general and specialized topics. They are meant to serve as a bridge between the more general M.A. examination and the research project which will result in the dissertation. The exams are composed of one oral and three written parts covering four areas:

1. A genre or a problem studied across the centuries
2. A broad problem in a particular period outside the student's period of specialization, with the period not necessarily determined by century (e.g., the Reformation, the Romantic period, Vichy France)
3. An open-topic exam, to be decided by the advisor and the student, related to the student's area of specialization. This might include: a general exam on the period of specialty or on another period (with period defined as in (2) above); an author or theorist from the period of specialty or from another period (e.g., Montaigne,

Flaubert, Derrida); theoretical approaches to a given topic (e.g., post-colonial theory, theories of aesthetics, gender theory)

4. A research project designed by the student in the period of specialization chosen for the dissertation.

For each part, the student will submit a reading list for approval by a faculty member specializing in the period or area in question. For (1), (2), and (3), the student will articulate, in a page or two, a problem, in relation to which the faculty member will then prepare questions for the exam. Generally, two exams should be taken in French and two in English. The student should present comprehensive exam (4) as an oral exam, consisting of a 50-minute lecture presenting the current state of research as well as plans for future development of the project, followed by a discussion with the members of the examination committee. Each of the three written parts will take up to five hours. After completing these exams, students write a prospectus (see below).

XII. TIMELINE AND EXAMINATIONS FOR THE PHD WITHOUT AN M.A. (for students who enter the Ph.D. program with an M.A. in French or in a closely related field)

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	FR2710 2 other seminars	3 seminars Preliminary Ph.D. evaluation	Begin preparing Ph.D. comprehensive exams
Year 2	3 seminars	2 or 3 seminars <i>Explication de texte</i>	Begin taking comprehensive exams
Year 3	Complete written Ph.D. comprehensive exams	Ph.D. oral exam Complete and defend prospectus Begin writing PhD	Write PhD
Year 4	Write PhD	Write PhD	Write PhD
Year 5	Write PhD	Write/defend PhD	
Year 6 (if necessary)	Write PhD	Defend PhD	

A. PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

In accordance with Graduate School policy, students in their first year of the Ph.D. program will undergo a preliminary evaluation by the end of the first year of full residence. The DGS in French will contact all members of the faculty with whom the student has studied or worked in view of giving feedback to the student about their performance in coursework, their teaching, and their citizenship in the department. The purpose of this

evaluation is to identify those students who may be expected to complete a doctoral program successfully, and also to identify deficiencies in the students' preparation. To satisfy this requirement, graduate students in French will meet with their adviser in the second term of residence for an evaluation of the record of performance in their first term on the basis of grades and reports from the students' instructors.

B. EXPLICATION DE TEXTE

Before taking their comprehensive examinations, Ph.D. students must present an oral *explication de texte* in French before a jury comprised of members of the faculty. The student and the chair of the comprehensive examination committee (see "c" below) will agree on a work, or on a series of works, from which the *texte* will be taken. The student will receive the text 48 hours before the presentation is to take place. The student will be allowed to bring to the presentation the book from which the passage is taken as well as his/her notes, but will not be allowed to read his/her presentation. This presentation will be done in French and should last about 30 minutes, after which questions will be asked. If the *explication* is not satisfactory, the student may repeat the exercise once.

Please consult the edited volume *Explication de texte* (ed. Jean Sareil) while preparing for this exam. The text is available in the department.

C. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE PH.D. IN FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Candidates must take both written and oral comprehensive examinations. These examinations normally should be passed at least eight months (two terms) before the degree is to be awarded. Students may present themselves for the examinations only after passing all preliminary examinations and language and other requirements, except for courses that are currently being taken.

The University has established a statute of limitations of ten years from the student's initial registration for graduate study or eight years from the initial registration for students holding an M.A. degree. Although the Department adheres to this regulation, it points out that full-time Ph.D. students may only receive up to five years of financial support as a TF.

However, to be eligible for the fourth year of support, students must take and pass the written comprehensive examinations during the fifth semester of support, and they must defend their prospectus during the sixth semester. Students should enter candidacy by the end of their sixth semester.

The department will not renew Teaching Fellowships after the students have benefited from **six years** of support (this includes TFships, an exchange year in France, and any competitive fellowships within the University of Pittsburgh).

Students will ask a faculty member in their intended field of specialization to chair their Comprehensive Examination Committee and to serve as the dissertation director. This request must be made no later than March 1 of the academic year preceding the one in which they will take the examination. If the faculty member accepts, s/he will ask at least two other members of the faculty, chosen in agreement with the student, to serve on an ad hoc committee. This committee, composed of at least three members, will guide the candidate in the preparation of reading lists in the areas chosen (see below) and will also

supervise the administration of the written and oral examinations. This committee will evaluate the examinations along with other specialists who will be called upon as deemed appropriate by the faculty member chairing the committee.

The exams ensure that the candidate is able to develop a scholarly and original approach to the study of French or Francophone literature and culture in a given period. The exams are also designed to help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for teaching in a college or university environment by addressing periods outside the area of specialization and by creating a balance between general and specialized topics. They are meant to serve as a bridge between the more general M.A. examination and the research project which will result in the dissertation. The exams are composed of one oral and three written parts covering four areas:

1. A genre or a problem studied across the centuries
2. A broad problem in a particular period outside the student's period of specialization, with the period not necessarily determined by century (e.g., the Reformation, the Romantic period, Vichy France)
3. An open-topic exam, to be decided by the advisor and the student, related to the student's area of specialization. This might include: a general exam on the period of specialty or on another period (with period defined as in (2) above); an author or theorist from the period of specialty or from another period (e.g., Montaigne, Flaubert, Derrida); theoretical approaches to a given topic (e.g., post-colonial theory, theories of aesthetics, gender theory)
4. A research project designed by the student in the period of specialization chosen for the dissertation.

For each part, the student will submit a reading list for approval by a faculty member specializing in the period or area in question. For (1), (2), and (3), the student will articulate, in a page or two, a problem, in relation to which the faculty member will then prepare questions for the exam. Generally, two exams should be taken in French and two in English. The student should present comprehensive exam (4) as an oral exam, consisting of a 50-minute lecture presenting the current state of research as well as plans for future development of the project, followed by a discussion with the members of the examination committee. Each of the three written parts will take up to five hours. After completing these exams, students write a prospectus (see below).

D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR THE PH.D. IN FRENCH WITH CONCENTRATION IN ROMANCE LANGUAGES

For students working toward a Concentration in Romance Languages, the comprehensive examinations will consist of one oral and three written parts:

1. A research project designed by the student in the major period of specialization chosen for the dissertation. This project should incorporate the two principal languages.
2. A broad problem designed by the student in the minor period, incorporating at least two of the three languages.

3. A genre or a problem studied in the two periods, covering all three literatures.
4. A French author chosen from one of the two periods, studied in relation to one of the other two languages.

For each part, the student will submit a reading list for approval by a faculty member specialized in the period(s) or area(s) in question. For 1. and 2., the student will articulate, in a page or two, a problem, in relation to which the faculty member will then prepare a series of questions for the exam.

The student should present either (1) as an oral exam, consisting of a 50-minute lecture on the results of the research, followed by a discussion with the members of the examination committee. Each of the three written parts will take up to five hours.

XIII. LANGUAGE, DATES AND REPETITION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

A. LANGUAGE USED IN THE PHD COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

Candidates will write their examination in the major language or in English. They will choose the language they handle more naturally. However, students who write in English must write one of their exams in the major language, and students writing in the major language must write one of their exams in English. Either French or English or both can be spoken during the oral exam.

B. DATES OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

Comprehensive examinations for the M.A. degree in Italian will be given by the Department in March, the week after Spring break.

The Department expects M.A. students in French who are applying to the Ph.D. program to take and pass the comprehensives by March of their second year.

The **two** sections of the M.A. comprehensive examinations in French have to be taken by March 15 of the second year of the TAship. The exam will be given only once per year, so that all students have to take the written exams on the same day.

Students in the Ph.D. program will be permitted to take the comprehensive examinations at any time in the academic year provided that:

1. They inform their adviser of the period during which they wish to take the examinations at least 2 months in advance; and
2. The dates requested are acceptable to all members of the committee.

The student should submit a timetable scheduling the dates on which the four examinations will be taken. For students on a Teaching Fellowship, all exams have to be passed between the beginning of their third term and the end of their fifth term. The timetable should be submitted to the director of graduate studies by October 15 of their second year.

After the exams have been read and evaluated by the members of the committee, a final colloquium will take place during which the faculty members and the student will discuss questions concerning the exams as well as the general direction the dissertation will take.

C. REPETITION OF M.A. AND PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

Students who fail one or more parts of the written examinations may, on the recommendation of the Department, be permitted to repeat once the part(s) failed. M.A. students may (if faculty is available) be given an opportunity to make up the failed section or sections of the examination over the summer.

For Ph.D. candidates, this repetition must take place within 6 months of the original examination.

XIV. THESIS AND DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS

A. THE M.A. DEGREE

No formal thesis is required. Candidates for the all M.A. degrees must take one seminar in which a major research paper is required. The instructor will grade the paper for form and content and decide whether it is suitable, with or without revision, to be presented to the Department in lieu of a thesis.

B. THE PH.D. DEGREE

A doctoral dissertation is required. This must meet the standards established by the University. Students should ask for the FAS booklet specifying these standards as soon as their prospectus has been accepted. Dissertations must be submitted electronically to the University. Students are responsible for completing all necessary paperwork before graduation.

1. *The Language of the Dissertation*

Normally, dissertations are written in English, as prescribed by the Graduate Faculty. A student intending to petition for permission to write the dissertation in French, shall write at least two seminar papers in English in order to demonstrate competence in the language. The student is advised to make an early written petition to the Dean of Graduate Studies, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and is warned that such permission may not be granted. The petition should be accompanied by a letter from the adviser and a copy of the papers written in English. In the petition, the student should present sound reasons for writing the dissertation in a language other than English.

2. *Steps in Writing the Doctoral Dissertation*

It is the student's responsibility to design a topic suitable for research resulting in a doctoral dissertation. Students are encouraged to start thinking about a topic and to seek advice from faculty members as soon as they join the Ph.D. program.

By the end of their first year, they must already have at least a rough idea of the direction in which they want to launch their research project.

As soon as the comprehensive examinations have been passed, the student and his/her adviser should agree on a dissertation committee including at least three members of the department (including the director) and one member chosen from another department in an area of expertise relevant to the dissertation topic.

Usually during the third year, but in no case later than the first term of their fourth year, the student must submit a prospectus to the director for circulation among the committee members. The scope, size, organization and format of the prospectus are

specified in a separate departmental document which Ph.D. students should receive or request as soon as they pass their comprehensive examinations.

The student then defends the prospectus in front of the committee. Upon acceptance of the prospectus by the committee, the student applies to the graduate school for admission to candidacy for the degree.

The dissertation committee must meet with the student at least once per academic year until the dissertation is completed.

The student continues research and writing under the supervision of the director. After the director has read and approved the entire dissertation, copies are distributed to the other members of the committee. The director sets a date for the defense in consultation with the candidate and with the other members of the committee. Committee members must receive their copy of the dissertation at least four weeks before the defense date.

Upon successful completion of the defense, the director sends formal notification to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the various administrative requirements for graduation are satisfied in time.

3. *Registration*

All graduate students must register in each term in which they are using University facilities; they must be registered for at least one credit whenever a landmark (passing the comprehensive examinations, defending the prospectus and being admitted to candidacy, defending the dissertation and graduating) has to be officially recorded.

A student who is not registered for at least three credits during a 12-month period will be transferred to inactive status and must file an application for readmission to graduate study before being permitted to register again. Readmission is not automatic nor does it necessarily reinstate the student in the status enjoyed prior to becoming inactive. When readmitted, the student must be prepared to demonstrate proper preparation to meet all current degree requirements.

There is a seven-year limit on the validity of the results of the comprehensive examination. After this deadline has passed, parts of the comprehensive examinations will have to be re-taken in order to reassess the currency of the knowledge held by the student in light of the developments newly appeared in the discipline.

XV. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

A graduate student must apply for an official leave of absence in cases of illness or personal concern. Leaves are considered on a case by case basis and are recommended to the Dean on the discretion of the DGS. The application can be made for maximum of one year for MA students or two years for PhD students. The length and rationale for the leave of absence must be stated in advance. The leave must be approved by the dean. Only one leave of absence can be obtained by a student during their graduate career.

If the leave of absence has been approved, the statute of limitations for the degree is extended by the length of the time of the leave. However, PhD students will not be

permitted an extension of the 7-year limit on the PhD comprehensive exam. PhD students must retake the comprehensive if they do not graduate within 7 years of the exam dates.

While on leave students are not permitted to use university facilities or faculty time. If a student is on an approved leave and needs to be registered to use university facilities, faculty time, or to defer loans and maintain VISA status, they must cancel their leave.

An approved leave only holds a student's place in their class, it does not guarantee funding. If a student takes a leave, he or she may not have funding when they return.