2009-2010 Thesis Calendar

Friday, October 2, 2009 - Initial Proposal Due for students not planning summer research

The initial thesis proposal of at least 3 pages must be submitted to the Department Chair, Professor Jay Levi, no later than 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY, October 2nd. Students who are off campus Fall Term must mail in their proposals soon enough to arrive by October 2.

Before submitting the initial proposal, you must discuss your intended project with at least one faculty member of the department. Guidelines for the initial proposal are provided below. You will be required to submit another proposal if the original one lacks sufficient promise or appears unfeasible. After your initial proposal has been accepted, you will be assigned to a faculty thesis advisor.

If you are planning to do research over the summer before your senior year, this initial thesis proposal must be submitted by noon of the last day of classes in Spring Term 2009, Wednesday, June 3. Students planning summer research involving human subjects (such as interviews, surveys, or participant observation) must obtain approval for their research from the Institutional Review Board BEFORE UNDERTAKING ANY RESEARCH. For more information and application guidelines, see the links labeled "Human Subjects Research Application" on the Dean of the College web page.

Friday, November 6, 2009 - Final Thesis Research Proposal Due

One copy of your final research proposal, with annotated bibliography, is due Friday, NOVEMBER 6th, at 4:30 P.M. in your comps advisor's office. The final research proposal should be 12 to 15 pages in length, and should follow the guidelines provided below, under "Description of a Research Proposal." This proposal requires library research.

In the case of any project involving original research on human subjects (e.g., surveys, participant observation, interviews), the proposal must be also be approved by the Institutional Review Board. For more information and application guidelines, see the links under "Human Subjects Research Application" on the Dean of the College web page.

If your proposal is not deemed sufficiently feasible by the department, you will have an opportunity to revise it for resubmission. The revised proposal must be turned in to your advisor by the first day of Winter Term, January 4, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. To proceed with the thesis option, your proposal must be accepted by the department no later than Friday, January 8, 2010. That is also the deadline by which students who had initially elected to do the thesis option may switch to the exam option.

Friday, January 22, 2010 - First Draft of Thesis Due

A first draft of the comps will be due in your comps advisor's office in the third week of winter term, Friday, JANUARY 22nd at 4:30 p.m. This draft should also include an assessment of what
needs to be done to complete the study. A bibliography of works read so far and of others that you intend to read should be appended.

**Friday, February 26, 2010 - Abstract and Second Draft of Thesis Due**

A complete second draft of the thesis is due in your comps advisor's office by Friday, FEBRUARY 26th, at 4:30 p.m. This draft should include all elements of your final paper, including the abstract, full text of the body of your paper, any tables, charts, or figures, and the bibliography. The order of these elements is: title page, abstract, table of contents, list of figures, acknowledgements, full text of the body of your paper, appendices, list of references cited.

You should also turn in a copy of the abstract (labeled with your name and the title of your thesis) to the interim department chair, Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg, by no later than 4:30 p.m., February 26th. The American Anthropological Association describes an abstract as "an informative summary of a longer work and states the central topic at the beginning. It indicates the nature and extent of the data on which it is based; outlines the nature of the problem or issue and delineates the relevant scientific argument. Finally, it shows how the content relates to the existing literature. Where helpful, citations can be used. Your abstract should be typed and between 75 and 100 words.

**Tuesday, April 6, 2010 - Final Thesis Due**

Three copies of the final, finished version of your comps paper are due Tuesday, APRIL 6th, 4:30 p.m. Two paper copies of your thesis should be turned in to the office of Professor Jay Levi, the department chair. The third, archive copy should be submitted electronically to Liz Musicant, Administrative Assistant. Do this by copying your thesis to the SoAn Courses/Comps/SoAn/yourID/folder. Please be sure to include all parts (logically named) that correlate to what you printed and handed in.

Any submissions after 4:30 p.m. must be accompanied by a formal letter to the department faculty explaining in detail why the comps are late. If the explanation is unacceptable the paper will be evaluated the following fall term. No late comps will be considered for distinction.

**End of April to early May - Oral Presentations of Thesis Papers**

Each student will orally present his or her thesis in a public forum open to any interested parties - other majors, faculty, and friends. These oral presentations contribute to the final evaluation of the paper. Each senior will be paired with a junior, who will introduce the presenter and initiate discussion following the presentation. Some of these oral presentations may be held on a Saturday.
2009-2010 Exam Calendar

Students can fulfill the Sociology/Anthropology integrative exercise through a comprehensive, six-hour examination consisting of four essay questions. The students will write required exam essays covering material from the core required courses for the major, Sociological Thought and Theory; Anthropological Thought and Theory; and Social Research Methods. In addition, students will choose one of several substantive subfields of anthropology and sociology (for example, race/ethnicity, social inequality, gender, religion, etc.), on which they will write an additional exam essay.

**Procedures**

The Sociology/Anthropology comps examination will take place Spring Term and it will involve two parts. The first part is a methods exam that will be completed as a take-home essay. Students will receive the exam on Friday, April 2, 2010 and will return the exam by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 5, 2010. The second part will be a sit-down exam that will test the student's mastery of sociological theory, anthropological theory, and one of the topical areas covered by the department. Each sit-down exam will be completed in 1½ hour time periods.

Exam responses will be read and evaluated by at least two faculty members. In the event of possible failure or distinction, additional faculty members will evaluate the exam. If the student fails all or part of the exam, he or she will have the opportunity to retake a similar exam covering the portion(s) of the comprehensive exam that he/she failed. Failure on the retake results in failure on the comprehensive exam.

To earn distinction on the comps exam, a student must earn a grade of distinction in three of the four exam areas (Sociological Theory, Anthropological Theory, Methods, and Topical Area) and pass or distinction on the fourth exam.

**Schedule**

**Friday, October 2, 2009** - Students planning to take the comps exam turn in a statement of intent to the Department Chair. This statement should indicate the student's intention to take the comps exam and include a list of courses that the student has taken in the major.

**Friday, October 16, 2009** - Sample exam questions for core sections of exam distributed.

**Friday, January 8, 2010** - Deadline for switching from the thesis option to exam option. Students notify Department Chair of the topical area on which they will write the fourth exam question.

**Friday, January 15, 2010** - Study guides for topical areas distributed.

**Winter Term 2010** - Study groups meet to prepare for exam.
Friday, April 2, 2010 - Take-home Methods exam is available.

Monday, April 5, 2010 - Take-home Methods exam is due at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday April 10, 2010 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. - Comps exam (place to be announced)

Saturday, May 1, 2010, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. - Date of second exam for those failing the first exam.

Topical Areas for the Comps Exam

Students will select one area from a list of topical areas, on which they will write the fourth comps exam question. For each topical area, we will indicate courses offered by the Department that deal centrally with this topical area, and which would provide core readings and materials to review in preparation for the exam. In most if not all cases, material drawn from other courses will also be relevant to each topical area. Students are encouraged to draw upon relevant material from other courses that they have taken in the department, both in preparing for the exam and in writing it. For example, although SA228, *Sociology of Religion*, and SA260, *Myth, Ritual, and Symbolism* may be the core courses for the topical area “Religion, Society, and Culture,” material dealing with religion, healing and health drawn from SA262, *Anthropology of Health and Illness*, would also be relevant to this area. Students who elect to take the topical exam on “Religion, Society, and Culture” and who have taken SA262 are encouraged to review relevant material from the latter course in preparation for the exam, and incorporate it into their exam response if relevant. Syllabi for these courses will be available in the Department’s COLLAB folder for Comps. After students inform the department chair of the topical area on which they intend to write the fourth part of the comps exam, they will also receive a study guide to help them in preparing for the exam.