

Preamble

In the 2005-2006 academic year, the CSPT Program began admitting PhD students who had first been accepted into doctoral programs in English, History, Political Science, Sociology, or individual Interdisciplinary Studies. Now with the joining of Environmental Studies to CSPT, the CSPT PhD students are expected to follow the requirements of their respective departments with the *exception* that as CSPT PhD students they are required to write, as one of their comprehensive exams, a CSPT Candidacy Exam, set by the CSPT Program.

Specifically, the CSPT Candidacy Exam pursues a double objective: (a) to prepare the PhD student for potentially teaching a course like CSPT Core Course (501/601) and have breadth of knowledge for this purpose; and (b) to allow our interdisciplinary students to have foundational knowledge of their special fields.

The CSPT Candidacy Procedure

The CSPT Candidacy Exam will consist of **three (3)** mandatory categories. **Category One** is specifically dedicated to the first objective of the Candidacy Exam: to prepare the students to teach an interdisciplinary theory “survey” course. **Categories Two and Three** are to be constructed by the student and his/her (co-)supervisor(s) and the Candidacy Exam Committee.

Category One reading list shall be *entirely* extracted from CSPT Candidacy Exam Reference List (available from CSPT website). Categories Two and Three are constructed by the student and his/her (Co-)Supervisors.

In preparing to write his/her CSPT Candidacy Exam, in coordination with her/his (Co-)Supervisor, who is a CSPT faculty member, the CSPT PhD student is required to follow these steps:

- (1) For each category, the student is required to read and be examined on **15 books or equivalent** (with 3-4 articles counted as one book). This means that the student must show mastery over a **total of 45 books across the three categories** of the Candidacy Exam.
- (2) The **Category One** Reading List (15 books or equivalent) must be extracted in its entirety from CSPT Candidacy Exam Reference List.
- (3) For the **Categories Two and Three**, the student and his/her (Co-)Supervisor will identify two *problématiques* (or two sets of related *problématiques*) from the list of *problématiques* provided on Candidacy Exam page on CSPT website. From the sources they find appropriate in relation to their selected *problématiques*, the student and his/her (Co-)Supervisor will construct two Reading Lists (15 books or equivalent in each). The bibliographies for **Categories Two and Three** can be drawn from the bibliography for **Category One**, either in whole or in part.

- (4) The (Co-)Supervisor shall then send a memo (via e-mail) requesting the Director's approval. The memo will include the following information:
 - a. An attachment containing the PhD student's finalized Candidacy Reading List that adheres to the criteria listed above.
 - b. The student's selected format for writing and submitting the CSPT Candidacy Exam (see below).
 - c. The names of two CSPT faculty members who will participate, in addition to student's (Co-)Supervisor, in the student's Candidacy Exam Committee. In the composition of Examining Committee, at least two (2) of the CSPT participating departments must be represented.
 - d. The tentative dates of exam and defense (see below).
- (5) The Reading List is to be ratified by CSPT Director. The Director is mandated to check: (1) that the bibliography adheres to the required number of 45 books or equivalent; and (2) that the books or articles for **Category One** are strictly extracted from the **CSPT Candidacy Exam Reference List**. The CSPT Director's written approval will officiate the process.
- (6) The student's (Co-)Supervisor and Candidacy Examination Committee, create the Candidacy Exam Paper, normally consisting of nine (9) questions—3 questions for each Category—of which the student will be required to answer three (3) questions, or specifically, one (1) question from each Category.
- (7) The Candidacy Examination Committee will meet with the student one (1) month prior to sending out the Candidacy Exam questions to the student. This meeting is intended to clarify the entire process of Candidacy Examination to the student and answer his/her questions.
- (8) In terms of the writing and submission of the Candidacy Exam, the CSPT Program allows the students, should they so choose, to follow the format of their participating Department in writing a comprehensive/field exam. CSPT Program recognizes that the student may choose any of the following formats:
 - a. The exam questions will be provided to the student 24 hours in advance of writing. The exam itself will take five hours and the student will write it in the student's Department and under the supervision of his/her (Co-Supervisor). The submitted exam will take the form of an exam write-up.
 - b. The exam questions will be given to the student at the agreed-upon date and time, in coordination with her/his (Co-)Supervisor and the answers are due in 72-hours. The submitted exam will take the form of a short paper.
 - c. The exam questions will be released to the student at 9 AM of the agreed-on date and the student is required to submit the exam to his/her (Co-)Supervisor precisely one week from the date/time s/he receives the questions. The submitted exam will take the form of a fully referenced, extended theory paper.

- (9) A two-hour Oral Examination is scheduled no later than two weeks after the submission date of the written exam. The Oral Examination will only take place upon the agreement of Candidacy Examination Committee that the submitted, written Exam is acceptable. The student's (Co-)Supervisor will oversee this process and set up the Oral Examination.
- (10)The student's (Co-)Supervisor is encouraged to meet with the student and help her/him prepare for the Oral Examination.
- (11)The Examining Committee will be chaired by the CSPT Director. In case the Director is unavailable or is the student's Supervisor, a CSPT Faculty designated by CSPT Director will chair the CSPT Candidacy Oral Examination. The chair's function is to observe that the student's written exam accords with his/her chosen format and the oral exam reflects the written exam.
- (12)The CSPT Candidacy Examining Committee will vote on the student's performance. Should the Examining Committee find the written component insufficient, the student will be given a second opportunity to write up the Candidacy Exam according to the above procedures. Should the Examining Committee find the oral component insufficient, the student will be given a second opportunity for Oral Examination within a maximum of six (6) months. The (Co-)Supervisor will make the arrangements for a second Oral Examination. Failing the second examinations will require that the student withdraw from the CSPT Program. The student may appeal this decision by referring to the Student Appeal Procedures of his/her home Department.
- (13)In case of a successful written exam and oral defence, the Supervisor is required to collect the signatures of the members of Examining Committee and file a "CSPT PhD Candidacy Exam Completion Report" to the Graduate Secretary of the student's Department. This form will stay in the student's records to ensure that proper record of his/her work is kept and sent to Faculty of Graduate Studies.