Revised format of MA exam in French (approved by French Working Group, October 2014)

1. A research paper (roughly 20 pages) that expands upon, improves and enriches work already begun in a seminar paper. The paper topic must be chosen and communicated to the exam committee by the last day of the student's third semester. The final version of the paper must be submitted to the committee by April 1 of the 4th semester.

2. An oral exam to be taken by March 1 of the 4th semester based on (a) the student's ongoing work and plans for completing the aforementioned research paper and (b) a number of questions provided by the exam committee ahead of time involving the student’s work in the course of the two-years of the MA program. The exam will last approximately 60 minutes, half of which will be devoted to the student’s progress and plans on the research paper and the other will be devoted to presentation and discussion of the student’s answers to the questions related to previous coursework.

   The student may choose to do both parts of the exam in French. Or the student may choose to do either of the parts (but not both) in English.

Additional details regarding exam procedure:

   Before the Thanksgiving break of the student’s third semester, the MA candidate will submit a list of all courses and “texts” studied in the first 3 semesters of the MA program. He/She will assemble an exam committee consisting of 3 members of the French faculty (of which 1 designated chair).

   Before the end of the 3rd semester, faculty members of the student’s committee will provide the student with several broad questions that address topics spanning two or more of the areas covered by the student’s previous courses.

   This exam format will become the required format for MA students entering the program in the Fall of 2015. Current MA students may opt to take this exam in lieu of the exam as it exists under the present format.