**Sept. 21, 2016. FROM DR. Teresa Marrero, Grad Advisor**

**STUDENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNT SPANISH MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS.**

**(**[**http://worldlanguages.unt.edu/sites/worldlanguages.unt.edu/files/worldlanguages/MA%20EXAMS%20AND%20THESIS%20OPTIONS.pdf**](http://worldlanguages.unt.edu/sites/worldlanguages.unt.edu/files/worldlanguages/MA%20EXAMS%20AND%20THESIS%20OPTIONS.pdf)**)**

**Who can take the MA exam?**

MASTER’S EXAMS OPTION Students who have completed 36 hours of graduate work in Spanish and are in good standing with no incompletes will be qualified to take the Spanish Master’s comprehensive exams. Also, students will have taken **at least ONE COURSE in each** of the following areas regardless of the areas they choose in which to be examined: Latin America, Spain, Linguistics. **Students select three (3) exam areas.** **Students will take Master’s comprehensive exams during the 5th week of their final semester** (fourth semester for full-time students).

**When do I declare my intent to take the MA exams?**

Students must declare intent to take the MA exams preferably **during the first but certainly by the second week** of the semester in which they are taking the exams.

**When do I inform the Graduate Advisor of my chosen areas?**

Students must inform the Graduate Advisor of the three areas in which they plan to be examined, and this must be done **within the first (2) two weeks of the semester in which they plan to take the exams. It happens at the same time students declare intent.**

**What are the areas and who are the professors?**

**They may choose ANY THREE areas f**rom the following list in which to be examined. Students need to have taken at least ONE course in each of the three chosen areas: • Spanish Golden Age Theater and Prose (Dr. Pierina Beckman) • Peninsular 18th & 19th Century (Dr. Jorge Avilés-Diz) • Peninsular 20th & 21st Century Narrative (Dr. Cristina Sánchez-Conejero) • Latin American Colonial & 19th Century (Dr. Jongsoo Lee) • Latin American 20th & 21st Century Narrative (Drs. Samuel Manickam and Talia Weltman-Cisneros) • Latin American/U.S. Latino 20th & 21st Century Theater (Dr. Teresa Marrero) • Linguistics/Grammar (Dr. Jiyoung Yoon) • Transatlantic Poetry (Dr. Will Derusha) Students must pass all exams to successfully complete the Master’s degree.

**Can I change my mind about my chosen areas?**

No. Once the student chooses the three areas, she/he cannot change any of the areas before taking the exams.

**What’s next after I inform the Adviser of my chosen areas?**

The Graduate Advisor then informs the three professors in the respective areas to be examined.**It is the student’s obligation to consult the three professors in order to discuss how to best prepare for exams.**

**When are the MA Exams administered?**

MA Exams are administered in the department **on the 5th week of the semester** on a Monday (declared area 1), Wednesday (declared area 2), and Friday (declared area 3).

**What is the format of the exams?**

Each area professor will write three (3) examination questions, of which the student selects two (2) to respond in essay format (length: about 500 words). The student will have three hours to answer both essay questions. In the area of Linguistics, the student selects and writes one (1) out of two (2) essay questions, and also answers three (3) out of four shorter analytical sections.

**How is the exam graded?**

Each essay question is valued at 50 points. The exam will be graded as a whole. Thus, both exam questions constitute one examination area; that is, 100 points. In the area of Linguistics, an essay question is valued at 40 points, and each of three shorter analytical sections is valued at 20 points for a total of 100 points. The exam will be graded as a whole. To pass the comprehensive exams students must earn an 80% or better in each exam.

**What happens if I fail one or more exams?**

However, if students do not pass one, two, or three exams, **they may retake them during the 8th week of the same semester or during the regularly scheduled exam period of the 5th week of the immediately following semester.**A student who does not pass an exam on the second try, will be disqualified from completing the Master’s degree.

**Who can take the exams in the new format?**

 Students who entered the program before or after Fall 2016 will take the exams in this new format only.**This means everyone will be taking the new format as of Fall 2016.**

**How many times can I retake the exam?**

 A student may retake the exam only **once** after failing. Professors will grade their area exams and communicate results to the Graduate Advisor within a week after all exams are completed, and the Graduate Advisor will inform students of their results

**When do I file for graduation?**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Filing for graduation is a separate matter from taking the MA Exams and it takes place *prior* to passing the exams.** For instance, the window to file for graduation in Spring 2017 opens October 2016 and closes March 10th. It does not matter if students have successfully passed their MA exams or not in order to file your intent to graduate. To check for current dates, go to: <https://tsgs.unt.edu/new-current-students/graduation-information/> Check Graduation Deadlines.

**What else do I need in order to graduate?**

In order to file for graduation you must have **a current Degree Plan** with the graduate advisor. Degree Plans are a record of the actual courses taken. The final version is signed by the graduate advisor and the department chair, then forwarded to TSGS.

**FURTHER QUESTIONS?** Contact Dr. Teresa Marrero, Graduate Advisor: Teresa.Marrero@unt.edu