

Comprehensive Exam Questions: General Fields

Some General Guidelines:

Good comprehensive exam answers will discuss at least 3 texts from each of the two examination lists, and also:

- 1 Provide a clear, plausible, sustained argument in answer to the question
- 2 that demonstrates a fair, accurate summary of the argument(s), method(s), theoretical significance(s), etc., in each of the six texts in a way relevant to the question
- 3 and effectively compares/contrasts, analyzes those texts/arguments/etc. in a way relevant to the question
- 4 and in an interdisciplinary manner
- 5 demonstrating in the process the best standards of academic integrity (i.e., the ability to differentiate between your arguments and those of others)

Question Bank:

- a) Propose an interdisciplinary course that introduces students to the intersections and tensions across fields of scholarly debate and discourse. What theme or themes? Which six texts should be the focus of the course? Why? What should students take away from the course ideally?
- b) What are the most fundamental tensions and connections that connect groups of texts across your two lists? Are they historical, thematic, methodological, etc.?
- c) The Humanities study human culture, which assumes the human to be definable. How can we define human and human culture? What implications does this definition have in relation to identity, reality, and/or technology?
- d) Knowledge establishes compatibility between subjects and the potential for a shared understanding. How have we come to know? What are the foundations of our knowledge? What intersections occur between knowledge, power, language, truth, and/or beliefs and/or technology?
- e) How might we define a canon from an Interdisciplinary Humanities perspective? How does an interdisciplinary humanities approach to texts across canonical lists demonstrate the challenges to modern academic disciplinary categories?