

Quick Guide to Preparing for the Graduate Oral Exam

Step One: Print out the exam's reading list

It is never too early to begin thinking about the Oral Exam.

- If you feel deficient in one or more of the categories, take (or audit) a class on the subject to build your knowledge base.
- Take good notes during seminars.

Tip: Pick a piece you've never read and read it in your spare time (i.e., during breaks).

Step Two: Picking your list.

The titles picked will need to cover the historical movements as well as bridge the entirety of the spans of time contained within each list. If you are having trouble choosing authors/titles, seek assistance from the specific member of your chosen panel that corresponds with your problem area.

Hint: Pick pieces that you could be questioned about without much prepping first.

- ❖ You are also going to need to get the list approved of and signed by your panel. Go ahead and type out the entirety of the list in chronological order.

Step Three: Pick your exam committee:

Hint: Pick the professors you are most comfortable with and know how they phrase questions from taking their class(es).

Step Four: Begin studying.

- Tip 1: Create a schedule.
- Tip 2: Read articles or watch remote classroom seminars (check youtube.com or the GIL catalogue).
- Tip 3: Sit in on a class that covers one of the pieces that you are unfamiliar with or struggling to understand on your own.
- Tip 4: Go talk to the professors on your panel.
- Tip 5: Don't freak out. Take a deep breath. Meditate.

Step Five: Scheduling the exam.

It is your responsibility to pick the date for your exam as well as reserve the room where the exam will be held. Check with your panel members to pick a date that works for everyone. After a date is picked and approved by all panel members, book the room.

Hint: Pick a room you are comfortable with.