Procedure for BA Exams in Literary and Cultural Studies

1. Application

- Please make sure that you fulfill all the requirements specified in the BA regulations and the *Wegleitung* for English.
- Choose an examiner (see "Examiners in literary and cultural studies").
- To apply for the BA exam, students must contact, or arrange an office hour with their examiner 28 days before the official application deadline at the latest. Students must e-mail the official BA application form ("Anmeldung zu den Bachelorprüfungen") as well as their transcript (*Leistungsübersicht*). (The deadlines for registration and the application form can be found here: https://philhist.unibas.ch/de/studium/dokumente-merkblaetter/)
- Before the official application deadline, students send an e-mail with suggestions for exam topics (attachment in Word format), including a provisional reading list (literary and literary-critical) for each, to the examiner. *The topics and reading lists must diverge significantly from any of the student's written papers.*
- In dialogue with the examiner, students define 2 exam topics, which they are expected to propose by themselves according to their own strengths and interests. Exam topics may revolve around individual authors, specific literary periods, specific theoretical schools or debates, or special topics (such as 'class' or 'madness'). The topics must cover more than one literary period and more than one genre (prose, poetry, or drama). Each topic consists of a reading list composed of

    a) 3 novels (or 10-15 short stories) *or* 5 plays *or* 25 poems
    b) 5 relevant critical or theoretical texts (2 books plus 3 articles)

- The examiner signs the form to accept the candidate, ideally once topics and reading lists have been agreed upon.
- The completed form has to be submitted to the *Dekanat*. Please check the deadlines carefully.

2. Before the exam

- At least 3 weeks before the exam, students provide the examiner with a sheet that contains three thesis statements for each topic.

3. Exam

- Students will receive the official dates (and place) for the written exam from the *Dekanat*.
- The 4h written exam consists of one essay. Based on your exam topics, one essay topic will be provided about which you should write a well-structured essay. You should take some time to plan/outline your essay, similar to papers you have written in the course of your studies, making sure that you really focus on the question(s). You should begin with an introduction designed to establish the topic and state your arguments clearly. The main part should develop the argument in detail with reference to the literary works. Verbatim quotations can be used, but paraphrases and general references are fine too. The conclusion should provide a succinct summary and, as applicable, a personal assessment, expression of opinion, or final argumentative twist. The essay should be at least 1,500 words in length (including title, footnotes, list of works cited etc.). Assessment criteria are content, structure, originality, conceptual rigor, (literary-)historical contextualization, close reading, and language.