

Procedure for MA Exams in Literary and Cultural Studies in English and Literary Studies (*MA Literaturwissenschaft*) (for Study Plan 2013)

1. Application

- ❖ Please make sure that you fulfill all the requirements specified in the MA regulations and the *Wegleitung* for English or Literary Studies.
- ❖ Choose an examiner (see "Examiners in literary and cultural studies").
- ❖ To formally apply for the MA exam, students must arrange an office hour with their examiner 14 days before the official application deadline at the latest (earlier contact is explicitly encouraged). Students must bring the official MA application form ("Anmeldung zum Masterabschluss") to this meeting. (The deadlines for registration and the application form can be found here: <https://philhist.unibas.ch/studium/masterarbeit-und-masterpruefungen/>).
- ❖ To prepare for this meeting, students send an e-mail with a suggestion for 2 exam topics including 2 reading lists to the examiner.
- ❖ At the meeting, students define 2 exam topics, which they are expected to select by themselves according to their own strengths and interests. A topic—which must diverge significantly from that of any of the student's written papers—may revolve around individual authors, specific literary periods, specific theoretical schools or debates, or special topics (such as 'climate change,' 'coverture,' 'ethnicity'). Topics can be based on courses attended. The two topics for an MA 2013 exam must cover more than one literary period and more than one genre (prose, poetry, or drama). The different genres can be distributed across topics. A topic typically consists of a reading list composed of
 - a) literary texts: 4 novels (or 15 short stories) *or* 7 plays *or* 30 poems
 - b) 7 relevant critical or theoretical texts (2 books plus 5 articles)The exact nature of the reading lists can vary, depending on the length and difficulty of the texts or the availability of critical texts on the topic. The final reading list is the result of your theoretical development of the topic, and your discussions with your examiner. Please note that, in addition to these ground rules, individual examiners have different expectations and different ways of conducting the MA exams. Do ask them to specify theirs in your face-to-face meeting at your earliest convenience.
- ❖ The examiner signs the form to accept the candidate.
- ❖ The completed form has to be submitted to/handed in at the *Dekanat*. Please check the deadlines carefully.

2. Before the exam

- ❖ At least 7 days before the exam, students provide the examiner with a sheet that contains 3 thesis statements for each of the 2 exam topics.

3. Exam

- ❖ Students will receive the official dates (and place) for the exam from the *Dekanat*.
- ❖ The in-depth 60-minute oral exam in literary and cultural studies is based on your reading lists and thesis statements.