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

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 contact or arrange an office hour with their examiner 14 days before the official application deadline at the latest (earlier contact is explicitly encouraged). Students must e-mail the official MA application form ("Anmeldung zum Masterabschluss") to be signed by the examiner. (The deadlines for registration and the application form can be found here: https://philhist.unibas.ch/studium/masterarbeit-und-masterpruefungen/).

- The completed form has to be submitted to the *Dekanat*. Please check the deadlines carefully.

- Students send an e-mail with a suggestion for 2 exam topics including 2 reading lists (literary texts and literary criticism) to the examiner. Usually, the reading list is discussed via e-mail before a meeting.

- Students are expected to select the 2 exam topics 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 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 basic rules, individual examiners have different expectations and different ways of conducting the MA exams. Do ask them to specify theirs at your earliest convenience.

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. Each thesis statement consists of a few sentences or a paragraph at most. The thesis statements are designed to show the examiner what you focused on in preparing for the exam. They will shape the discussion to an extent but we will not read them back to you at the exam.

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. The exam, in which both exam topics are covered for about 30 minutes each, takes the form of an academic conversation such as those familiar from seminars, drawing on students' reading lists and thesis statements. Students should show that they are on top of their material and that they can take an analytical approach to their topics informed both by close attention to the literary texts and to the relevant scholarship. Students should be able to argue their points in very good, academic English. Assessment criteria are content, structure, originality, conceptual rigor, (literary-)historical contextualization, knowledge of literary texts and research literature, close reading skills, and rhetorical ability.