
BRAUN, Robert

Fields: Social Movements, Comparative-Historical Sociology, Political Sociology

Meet with me well in advance of your exams. If you are interested in having me serve on a committee, see me during my office hours early in the process to find out if I am available and whether I am teaching a course relevant to your exam.

I will not advise QEs when I am on leave.

- Take a seminar with me on the topic (if possible).
- Write a memo outlining the formal requirements of your exam, your expectations regarding my role, your responsibilities, and a timeline.
- Draft a reading list.
- Revise the reading list. I may suggest key readings to include, and, in consultation with me, you may change your list as you come across new work or debates. The reading list does not need to be finalized until close to the exam.
- Write me 3 short memos during your reading. We will discuss the nature of these memos in my office hours.
- After you complete a memo, schedule a half hour meeting to discuss the memo with me. Send me the memo five days in advance of our meeting (during my office hours) so that I have time to read it.
- Our discussions will form the basis for the exam questions.

BROWN, Eliza

Fields: Economic Sociology, Family & Lifecycle, Gender & Feminist Theory, Health & Medicine, Technology

I offer these guidelines if you want to do exams with me.

- Meet with me well in advance of your exams. If you are interested in having me serve on a committee, see me during my office hours early in the process to find out if I am available and whether I am teaching a course relevant to your exam.
- Take a seminar with me on the topic (if possible). If you are taking your QE in Health/Medicine, you are required to take my 280 course on the topic. I encourage you to take audit an undergraduate seminar on the topic (e.g., my 190 course on Reproduction) if I do not teach a similar graduate course.

FACULTY QE FIELDS AND PREPARATION PROCESS

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- Write a memo outlining the formal requirements of your exam, your expectations regarding my role, your responsibilities, and a timeline. In discussion with me, outline your broad topical area, the work you will do, a timeline and (especially for non-Sociology students) the requirements of the exam. This is not a reading list, but an agreement about expectations.
- Draft a reading list. To build your reading list, you can use my syllabi, other syllabi, other reading lists, or create one from scratch. You should organize the reading list around big debates, questions, and/or substantive topics. You need to show breadth (you have to “cover the basics”), but then you can concentrate in a particular area that is of most interest to you. Send me the reading list, and I will email back feedback.
- Revise the reading list. I may suggest key readings to include, and, in consultation with me, you may change your list as you come across new work or debates. The reading list does not need to be finalized until close to the exam.
- Write me 3 short memos during your reading. Based on the way you group your readings, I want you to write a few short memos (2-4 pages single-spaced) identifying the debates, discussing how they fit in the field and offering some thoughts on where research and thinking must go. This is NOT a literature review, but a synthesis across readings. I might also ask for one final synthetic memo, combining the prior memos, to provide an overview of the field as a whole. This memo would be less than 10 pages. We will discuss these memos in my office hours.
- After you complete a memo, schedule a half hour meeting to discuss the memo with me. Send me the memo five days in advance of our meeting (during my office hours) so that I have time to read it. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to read late memos. I may ask you to revise your memo. Do not start on the next set of readings until we have discussed the last set.
- I will discuss possible exam questions in advance. Based on your memos and our discussions, I will signal possible exam questions. If you have done all the work this far, I fully expect you to pass the exam.

COHEN, Daniel

Fields: Urban Sociology, Climate

Urban: Students are expected to take a graduate seminar on urban sociology or an urban studies seminar taught in another social science department or in City and Regional Planning. For the exam, I will first meet the student to establish a reading list. The student should come with a proposed list. Then, we will schedule three meetings and discuss core questions, based on the student’s dissertation focus. For each subsequent meeting, the student will prepare a 6-8 page

memo on the readings, structured around one or more of our core questions. If I am satisfied with the memos, I will consider the student prepared for the exam, and I will ask questions based on the memos, discussed in advance. If additional work is needed before the exam, we will schedule a fourth meeting and I will request new or revised memo writing.

Climate: Students are expected to take my 280 graduate seminar on Environmental and Climate Sociology. (Exceptions can be granted if this was logistically impossible.) Ideally, students will have taken additional social science seminars on climate change in other social science departments. For the exam, I will first meet the student to establish a reading list. The student should come with a proposed list; they may ask me for examples from prior exams taken by other students. Then, we will schedule three meetings and discuss core questions, based on the student's dissertation focus. For each subsequent meeting, the student will prepare a 6-8 page memo on the readings, structured around one or more of our core questions. If I am satisfied with the memos, I will consider the student prepared for the exam, and I will ask questions based on the memos, discussed in advance. If additional work is needed before the exam, we will schedule a fourth meeting and I will request new or revised memo writing.

ENRIQUEZ, Laura

Fields: Development, Political Sociology, Rural Sociology, Latin America

I meet with students 4-5 times before the QEs and pose questions to them to assess their command of the subsets of literature we cover in each of these sessions, and to prepare them for "reflecting aloud" about these subsets of the literature. This fall I also will be experimenting with asking student to prepare short essays (3-5 pages) on subsets of their lists, in preparation for our meetings. The meetings are also a space for them, once I've done my questioning, to ask about the literatures.

I don't have set reading lists, but rather provide them with syllabi that I think represent a good starting point for the field they want to undertake with me. We then negotiate a list that involves adding to that syllabi to fill it out further, as well as taking off what is less relevant, bearing in mind their specific research interests.

FLIGSTEIN, Neil

Fields: Theory, Economic Sociology, Organizational Sociology, Political Sociology, Social Stratification, Industrial Sociology/Sociology of Work

In every field, there are a relatively small number of really big questions that have organized debate in that field. The best way to understand research in a particular field is to see how various schools of thought within the field attempt to organize their research in such a way as to promote their answer to one of the important questions. My goal is for students to show an

understanding of these schools of thought, what debates they have generated, and what they have shown empirically.

In order to prepare for the exam, I first work with students to make a reading list. Students who have taken classes with me are free to use or modify the reading list from my class. We work together to define both the list and the questions. One way of thinking of a field, is to tell students to conceive of the list as the basis for a syllabus for an undergraduate or graduate course on the topic. I suggest that they think about would be most important to teach to others about a particular field.

The core of the preparation is the production of a set of memos that answer these questions. I usually ask students to write 4 questions. The memos are usually 3-5 single spaced pages for each answer. I prefer students to turn all of the memos into me at one time point. Then we discuss the memos and if they are fine, I am ready for the exam. If I want some modifications of the memos, I ask students to rewrite. If students are having problems or prefer to discuss the memos one at a time, I am flexible. Finally, the questions that the student wrote about are the questions I will ask at the QE.

FOURCADE, Marion

Fields: Theory, Culture, Economic Sociology. All “baseline” reading lists are on the student

Theory

Requirements: Enroll in Professor Fourcade’s graduate course (201) and complete all assignments or audit her undergraduate theory courses (101A/B) and complete all in-class assignments. Write two 8-10p memos (double spaced) on topics of choice, to be decided jointly by student and prof.

Reading list: Based on course reading list + additional texts agreed upon by both student and prof.

Economic Sociology Requirements: Enroll in Professor Fourcade’s graduate economic sociology (280Q) course and complete all assignments. Write two 8-10p memos (double spaced) on topics of choice, to be decided jointly by student and prof.

Reading list: Based on course reading list + additional texts agreed upon by both student and prof.

Culture Requirements: Audit Professor Fourcade’s undergraduate culture course (160) and complete all in class assignments. Write two 8-10p memos (double spaced) on topics of choice, to be decided jointly by student and prof.

Reading list: based on course reading list + additional texts agreed upon by both student and prof.

Science, Professions and Knowledge Requirements: Establish a reading list jointly with Prof. Fourcade (no sample list available –no class). Write three 8-10p memos (double spaced) on topics of choice, to be decided jointly by student and prof.

ORAL VS WRITTEN EXAM:

Written exam: Prof. Fourcade will prepare 2 essay questions. Answer is due within 8 hours (8-10 pages in all). Exam can be scheduled at any point during the semester.

LEAVE POLICY: If Professor Fourcade is on leave (sabbatical or leave of absence), students willing to take an exam with her will have to wait until she returns from her leave to do so.

SCHEDULING:

Please schedule your exam (oral or written) during the semester.

FOX, Cybelle

Fields: Race and Ethnicity, Immigration Guidelines for Oral and Field Exams I generally supervise exams in race & ethnicity and in immigration.

I offer these guidelines if you want to do exams with me.

- *Speak with me well in advance of your exams.* If you are interested in having me serve on a committee, see me early in the process to find out if I am available and whether I am teaching a course relevant to your exam.
- *Write up a memo outlining the formal requirements of your exam, your expectations regarding my role, your responsibilities, and a timeline.* In discussion with me, outline your broad topical area, the work you will do, a timeline and (especially for non-Sociology students) the requirements of the exam. This is not a reading list, but a (somewhat flexible) contract about expectations.
- *If possible, take a seminar with me on the topic.* If I am teaching on the topic, I strongly encourage you to take my course.
- *Put together a draft reading list.* To build your reading list, you can use my syllabi, other syllabi, other reading lists, or create one from scratch. You should organize the reading list around big debates, questions, and/or substantive topics. You need to show breadth (you have to "cover the basics"), but then you can concentrate in a particular area that is of most interest to

you.

- *Revise the reading list in consultation with me, and during your reading.* I may suggest key readings to include, and, in consultation with me, you may change your list as you come across new items or debates during your reading. The list is not cast in stone.

- *Write me 4 short memos during your reading.* Based on the way you group your readings, I want you to write a few short memos (2-4 pages single-spaced) identifying the debates, discussing how they fit in the field and offering some thoughts on where research and thinking must go. This is NOT a literature review, but a synthesis across readings. I might also ask for one final synthetic memo, combining the prior memos, to provide an overview of the field as a whole. This memo would be less than 10 pages. We will discuss these memos in my office hours.

- *After you complete a memo, schedule a half hour meeting to discuss the memo with me.* Send me the memo five days in advance of our meeting so that I have time to read it. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to read late memos. I may ask you to revise your memo. Do not start on the next set of readings until we have discussed the last set.

- *I will discuss possible exam questions in advance.* Based on your memos and our discussions, I will signal possible exam questions. If you have done all the work this far, I fully expect you to pass the exam.

HAMMER, Ricarda

Fields: Theory, Colonialism/Postcolonialism

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

HARDING, David

Fields: Education, Methods, Poverty, Urban Sociology, Stratification, Criminal Justice

QE Preparation: I work with each student to develop a process that will meet the student's needs and goals and will prepare the student to conduct original research related to the field. In general, this involves working together to create a reading list and then writing and discussing a series of memos or short essays. The goal of this process is for the student to demonstrate mastery of the key questions, theories, and debates that motivate research in the field, the primary pieces of empirical evidence and core findings of the field, and the main unanswered or unresolved (or unasked) questions in the field. For more details, please arrange for a meeting in office hours.

HAVEMAN, Heather

Field: Organizations, Social Movements, Economic Sociology

Orals versus tutorials? Because I require students to write essays of moderate length (15 pages each), students who choose the tutorial option for QEs proceed in exactly the same way as students who choose the oral option: you read extensively in the field, take a 1-week take-home exam consisting of 4 questions, write answers to 2 of them, and when I've read these and deemed them acceptable, you can take the oral exam, during which I will mostly ask you how your knowledge of this field will be used in your proposed dissertation project.

Working with other students. It helps to be working toward QEs in conjunction with other students. If you know people who are thinking of your field as one of their own, you should coordinate with them on the timing. That way, I can give you all the same exam, which not only lightens my workload but also ensures a more equitable examination standard.

How to prepare for a QE in Organizations

- ❖ Take my organizations course – Soc 280D.
- ❖ Read the material on my QE reading list. This list, which includes everything from the most recent syllabus for 280D, evolves as new work is published. I am happy to email the current version of the list to any student who wants it.
- ❖ Meet with me during office hours to talk about your proposed areas of research. I'm happy to meet with you over the time you spending reading, whenever you have questions, whether related to the exam or to a possible dissertation idea.
- ❖ When you think you've developed a firm grasp of the field from your readings, email me.

How to prepare for a QE in Social Movements or Economic Sociology

- ❖ Take the appropriate introductory field course – Soc 280S for social movements or Soc 280Q for economic sociology.
- ❖ Work with me to develop a field-wide reading list that extends this syllabus to cover the entire field.
- ❖ I'm happy to meet with you over the time you spending reading, whenever you have questions, whether related to the exam or to a possible dissertation idea.
- ❖ When you think you've developed a firm grasp of the field from your readings, email me.

QE Procedure for All Fields

- ❖ I will send you a list of 4 questions. Each question will focus on a general theme, issue, puzzle, or controversy in the sociological study of organizations.
- ❖ You will have 1 week to answer 2/4 questions. Each essay answer should be no more than

- 15 pages long (double-spaced), plus complete references and (if any) tables and figures.
- ❖ I will grade your essays and comment on them.
 - ❖ If your answers meet my standards, we can then schedule the oral exam meeting. During that meeting, I will ask you questions about your answers, but I may also ask you questions about other areas within the field of organizations and about your proposed dissertation project.
 - ❖ If your answers do not meet my standards, I will ask you to revise them, based on my comments. I will give you 4 days to do revisions.
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JOHNSON-HANKS, Jennifer

Fields: Area-Studies: Africa, Culture, Demography, Family, Gender & Feminist Theory.

Guidelines for Oral and Field Exams

I generally supervise exams culture, demography and family. On occasion, I may also supervise exams in the sociology of Africa or methods. I offer these guidelines if you want to do exams with me.

Our work together begins with a conversation. Come speak to me early in the process of putting together your exams. If I am teaching a seminar pertinent to your exam, I will expect you to take it. The centerpiece of your exam prep is your reading lists. I will expect you to produce a first draft of the list. To build your reading list, you can use my syllabi, other syllabi, other reading lists, or create one from scratch. You should organize the reading list around debates and/or substantive topics. You need to show breadth, but can subsequently concentrate in a particular area. We will work together to revise the list. Based on the way you group your readings, you to write a few **short** memos (2-4 pages single-spaced) identifying the debates, discussing how they fit in the field and offering some thoughts on where research and thinking must go. This is not a literature review, but a synthesis across readings. I may also ask for one final synthetic memo, combining the prior memos, to provide an overview of the field as a whole. This memo would be less than 10 pages. We will discuss these memos in my office hours. At our last meeting before your exam, we will discuss possible exam questions. If you have done all the work this far, I fully expect you to pass the exam.

LAGOS, Danya

Fields: Gender, Demography, Family, Sexuality/Sexualities

I primarily supervise QEs in gender, but I am available to occasionally supervise QEs in demography, sexuality, and family. My approach to QEs is informed by two main considerations:

1. It is important for sociologists to have basic substantive and theoretical grounding in various subfields, which can be followed by a lifetime of learning.
2. It is important for graduate students to meet program requirements in a timely fashion.

Step 1: Initiating the QE Supervision Process

If you are planning on having me supervise one of your QEs in gender, or demography, please contact me early in the process to see if I am available, and to see if I am teaching a course relevant to your exam that you should take.

Step 2: Selecting a Reading List

As of January 2024, QE reading lists for those working with me will be determined by a Core Reading List that I will provide you when you initiate the QE supervision process. You may add five additional readings to this list of your choice, but this is not required. Four distinct memos are required, which will be guided by prompts that correspond to the three sections of the Core Reading List, and a fourth memo will preview the questions explored on your final QE exam (you may discuss your additional readings in the fourth memo). Memos should be 2-3 pages, single-spaced.

Step 3: Setting a Timeline

Once you have decided to take a QE with me, you are required to submit a QE Timeline in the form of a memo that lists the following information:

1. Your year of entry into the program and the latest possible date you are able to take a QE according to the policies set in the student handbook. Also explain any formal extensions you have been granted by the department.
2. Your desired timeline for completion of memos and the QE exam. Note that I expect students to complete their QE within a year of initiating the QE conversation. Memos can be turned in on or before the following dates of each year: February 15, March 15, April 15, September 15, October 15, and November 15. Pick four of these dates and put them down in writing so that I know when to expect each of them. This is a commitment, so please select dates based on when you believe you will be able to complete the memos. If you do not meet the deadline, I do not guarantee that I will be able to read your memo until the next date.

Step 4: Memos and Meetings

Memos are due on the dates indicated in the QE Timeline you have set. At the end of each memo, please include an up-to-date list of other QEs you are doing and the name of the faculty members involved in them, as well as the date you expect to take your QE exam.

If you are taking a Gender QE, it is possible that a group of students working on their Gender QE will be meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the readings and memos.

Otherwise, I will read the memos that you submit, grade them, and send them back to you within 30 days of submission. You are invited to schedule a time to meet and discuss the memos once

they have been graded. You are required to receive a passing grade on each memo before you can write the next one, and a passing grade on all memos is required to advance to the QE exam.

Step 5: The QE Exam

The questions I ask at your QE exam will closely mirror the questions I ask of you in the fourth memo, with a few additional questions about how you plan to incorporate what you have learned into your dissertation.

Scheduling Policy: If Professor Lagos is on leave (sabbatical or leave of absence), students willing to take an exam with them will have to wait until they return from leave to do so.

LARA-MILLAN, Armando

Fields: Health/Medicine, Incarceration & Mass Imprisonment, Political Sociology

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

LIE, John

Fields: Area Studies: Asia, Comparative-Historical, Culture, Development, Economic Sociology, Environmental Sociology, Political Sociology, Science/Sociology of Knowledge, Theory.

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

LONG, Yan

Fields: Area Studies, Development and Globalization, Health/Medicine, Political Sociology, Sexuality/Sexualities, Social Movements, Technology, Urban Sociology

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

LOVEMAN, Mara

Fields: Area Studies: Latin America; Comparative-Historical Sociology; Development; Race and Ethnicity

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

LUCAS, Samuel R.

Fields: Social Stratification, Sociology of Education, Methods.

Procedure for Securing Passage of the Oral Examination from Professor Lucas as of June 2013

The Deal: Any student who passes Professor Lucas' closed book, closed note written exam has passed as far as he is concerned, and he will show up and ask them questions at their oral exam to confirm that. To aid QE performance, the student should prepare and deliver to Professor Lucas an undergraduate syllabus for the area one week before the oral QE.

Areas: Professor Lucas has offered written exams in two areas, Social Stratification, and Sociology of Education. He is also willing to examine students in Methods.

Exam Details: The exam totals six hours—three hours for Part I, and three hours for Part II. Parts I and II may be taken on the same day or on different days, at each student's discretion.

Helpful Resources: Past exams are posted on Professor Lucas' web-site under "Gateway to Previous Prelim Exams." If no past exam in an area exists, Professor Lucas provides a practice exam for the student(s) taking the exam for the first time.

Non-Native English Speakers: Students whose native language is not English may submit a translation dictionary one week before the exam which will be returned to them for use during the exam, and may have 3.5 hours for Part I, and 3.5 hours for Part II. Failure to make such arrangements before the exam will not be considered in grading the exam.

Frequency: Exams are offered in August/September, December/January, and April/May ONLY. PLEASE NOTE: Students are STRONGLY discouraged from scheduling their oral exam in the same 2-month window as the written prelim. An exam in an area is offered only once per 2-month window. Actual exam dates are coordinated with the Professor and other students taking an exam.

Crude Statistics on Student Performance: Students have failed the written exam in the past. A student who fails an exam may take it again later. Some have re-taken the exam, others have not. Those who have re-taken the exam have passed.

Reading List: There is no list of readings—Professor Lucas regards areas of research as defined by questions, not by readings. Two observations need be made at this juncture. First, students are not in the complete dark about what readings might provide a useful point of departure. The syllabi for the courses taught in the department for a particular area serve as de facto starting points. A student who ignored those syllabi would be at great risk of failing the exam simply

because the syllabi are designed to cover an area broadly, but not necessarily as deeply as one might like. Second, because there is no canonical reading list, there is no battle between professor and student about what will and will not be allowed. Instead, Professor Lucas encourages students to read what they want. Students just need to be able to address the questions, and past exams (see helpful resources above) coupled with course syllabi can be valuable guides to the questions that constitute an area of study. If a student is able to link readings that are not on a departmental syllabus to the question in an enlightening and self-critical way, so much the better.

MORA, Cristina

Fields: Race and Ethnicity, Immigration.

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

PASCHEL, Tianna

Fields: Political Sociology, race and ethnicity, Area Studies (Latin America), Development/Globalization.

QE Preparation: Memos

PETERSEN, Trond

Fields: Organizations, Social Stratification, Industrial Sociology/Work, Economic Sociology, Economic Sociology.

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

RAY, Raka

Fields: Gender, Theory, Social Movements

I do QEs primarily in gender, but also in theory and occasionally social movements.

Preparation Process: I meet as a group with students (usually groups of between 2 and 4) and discuss readings every three weeks or so. Prior to the group meeting, students send me a memo of about 2-3 pages about the readings. These memos include key arguments and any analytic questions that occur to the students while they are reading. The memos are written not so much for me but for the students themselves, so they have the core arguments of key authors and works in a succinct form which they can then look at before the QE.

Preparation length varies from student to student but generally include a summer and a semester.

Reading list: There are core reading lists which are then tailored to meet the interests of individual students. For example, in the gender list, some students may want more transnational

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readings and other may want more readings on race. Lists can be modified accordingly. In addition, each student who takes a Gender QE with me is expected to come up with a specialized sub-field. These can be anything from "masculinity" to "health and science" to "the state". The idea is that students should be able to teach two courses on the basis of the reading list -- a general course on the Sociology of Gender, as well as a seminar on the specialized sub-field. Those who do theory with me usually have a focus on postcolonial and/or feminist theory in addition to the classics.

RILEY, Dylan

Fields: Theory, Political Sociology, Comparative Historical Sociology, Science/Sociology of Knowledge.

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

RODRÍGUEZ-MUÑIZ, Michael

Fields: Race & Ethnicity, Political Sociology, Science/Sociology of Knowledge, and on occasion, Theory.

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

SANCHEZ-JANKOWSKI, Martin

Fields: Urban Sociology, Poverty, Race and Ethnicity.

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

TUGAL, Cihan Z.

Fields: Political Sociology, Theory, Social Movements, Religion, Area Studies: the Middle East

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

VOSS, Kim Fields: Labor, Industrial Sociology/Work, Social Movements.

QE Preparation: Consult directly.

WACQUANT, Loïc

Fields: Theory, Urban Sociology, Race and Ethnicity, Penalty/Law, Poverty, Body/Everyday Life I don't have a standard reading list for any of these fields, but a set of core issues and

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readings around which I will help you construct your own list (taking into account the shape of the area, your prior knowledge, and your intellectual sensitivities and interests). Your readings will be organized around a few salient questions on which you will write short analytic memos, organize a course syllabus of your own, and respond during the exam. For more detail, consult with me.
