**CRITICAL SOCIAL/PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY**

**SECOND DOCTORAL EXAM**

For their Second Doctoral Examination, Social/Personality Psychology students will have the **option** of taking the examination as originally conceived  (see Option I ) or have as a second option for preparing and taking an oral examination (see Option II).

**Option I**

The second doctoral examination is a review paper that poses a conceptual or methodological research question in a topic area.  In the attempt to answer that question, it

* reviews the literatures relevant to that question, and
* suggests new directions for future research and revisions of a particular theory or theories relevant to the topic.

*Overview.* The paper can take the form of a meta-analysis, a research-informed policy paper or a conceptual analysis of a social/personality construct or debate.

*Length*. The final paper should be no more than 25 double-spaced pages *including* references.  Students should take no more than 8 months to write their paper.

*Purpose*. For some students, the second doctoral paper becomes the literature review of the dissertation; for others it serves as a broader review of a topic that leads the student to a more specific question and literature for their dissertation; and for other students it bears no relationship to the dissertation research. Each student should select his/her topic and frame the paper in consultation with their committee.

*The Second-Doc Committee.* The Committee consists of three faculty members: a chair and two members.  The Committee, in particular the Chair, works with the student to choose and frame a topic, consults with the student as the paper is being written and revised, and constitutes the examining committee for the oral examination of the paper. Students choose members of their committees for their areas of expertise: Committee members are advocates and guides, who will provide intellectual and emotional support during the process.

The Chair of the Examining Committee must be appointed to the doctoral faculty in Social-Personality Psychology.  If a student wants to invite a member from outside the GC doctoral faculty to serve on the committee, s/he must provide justification for the choice by submitting the person’s C.V. for approval to the Executive Officer for Psychology. It is suggested that approval of an outside member be obtained early in the process.

*Approval of the Second-Doc Exam.* The Chair of the examining committee must approve the written paper prior to scheduling the oral examination. The written paper should demonstrate competence in presenting the state of the science in the topic area, critical reflection, and academic writing that conveys mastery or the chosen area(s) of the literature.

The oral examination is a 2-hour discussion between the student and committee members in which all three committee members ask questions of the student pertaining to the material in the document. The oral examination may include questions on any area of psychology related to the paper.

**Option II –***Oral Examination*

Students will select two areas of scholarship within the field of social/personality psychology and generate a reading list for each in consultation with a faculty committee of three GC doctoral faculty chosen by the students.  The Chair must be a member of the Social/Personality Doctoral faculty.

* The two areas may be a topic, question, method, or construct.
* Each area will be reviewed through a bibliography of no less than 20 citations (articles and books) which must include three domains of relevant literature: historic, mainstream, and critical social/personality psychology; appropriate interdisciplinary texts should be included as needed.
* Students will build the bibliography in consultation with their faculty committee of three members.  Students may decide if specific faculty members are responsible for posing questions within one area or both.
* Students will write 2 papers of no more than 10 pages each. Each paper will review the themes, debates, and intellectual currents that cut across each bibliography. The first half of the paper would annotate the key arguments, and the second half would articulate the key debates, turns, currents, and future directions.
* The bibliographies and papers will be submitted to the full committee.
* In a two hour second doctoral examination, faculty and student will engage in a conversation about both fields of inquiry.
* The second doctoral examination should be held by the end of the student’s third year in the program.  Should extenuating circumstances prevent the student from meeting that deadline, the exam must be held absolutely no later than the opening weeks of a student’s fourth year.

*The Second Doc Committee*: The Committee consists of three faculty members: a chair and two members.  The Committee, in particular the Chair, works with the student to choose and frame a topic; consults with the student as the exam is being developed, written, and revised; and constitutes the examining committee for the oral examination of the papers. Students choose members of their committees for their areas of expertise. There is no obligation to keep any faculty member of the second doctoral examination committee on the dissertation committee.

*The Chair of the Examining Committee* must be appointed to the doctoral faculty in Social/Personality Psychology.  If a student wants to invite one member from outside the GC doctoral faculty to serve on the committee, she or he must provide justification for the choice by submitting the person’s C.V. and appropriate paperwork for approval to the Executive Officer for Psychology. Note that approval for an outside committee member should be obtained early in the process.

*Updated 15 Feb 2013*