Research Paper Comprehensive Field Exams - Guidelines and Procedures

Comprehensive Field Exams with paper structures ("Paper Comps"):  
- Contemporary Social and Political Theory  
- Intra-/Inter-disciplinary Studies

Prerequisites:  
- Paper abstract  
- Bibliography/reading list  
- Completion timeline

As for all comprehensive field exams, students interested in taking a paper comp should meet with the field clerk at least one semester prior to signing up to take the exam. The paper comps take careful planning to ensure relevant and adequate course work is taken, in particular any methods requirements, and the committee is convened in time to approve the research paper. Timing the research paper exam to balance workload with coursework and teaching/research responsibilities is also an important consideration.

Both paper comps require a paper abstract and bibliography to be approved by the student-selected exam committee. This is expected to be done prior to the student signing up for the exam. Students are also expected to provide a timeline for completion (first draft, revision, final submission, oral defense) to the exam committee for approval to take the exam.

Once the paper has been approved by the committee, the student may sign up to take the comprehensive exam in the next semester. The paper must be completed and defended by the end of the examination semester (i.e., last day of final exams). Requests to extend the exam beyond the end of the semester or for an additional semester require petition to the Graduate Studies Committee and field clerk.

Reviewed and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee, Sept 2015