DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN
M.A. and Ph.D. Curriculum

Preliminary draft presented to department faculty, 8/2/11
Revised and approved by department faculty, 12/2/11
Submitted to K. Schwarz and V. Greene, 12/7/11
Resent to K. Schwarz and V. Greene, 1/11/11
Additional materials, supplementary justifications sent to K. Schwarz, 2/25/12
Meeting K. Schwarz, V. Greene, H. Tucker, L. Ramey, 3/28/12
Revisions approved by department faculty, 4/4/12
CGE provisional approval, 4/20/12
Revisions/clarifications submitted, 4/25/12
Official approval of CGE, 4/26/12
Final proposal submitted to A&S, 4/26/12

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RATIONALE:

In August 2011, the graduate faculty of the Department of French & Italian met at length to review, discuss, and revise the MA/Ph.D. curriculum. While we have made ad hoc changes to the program over time, this constituted the first major overhaul of the graduate program in over two decades.

The faculty isolated several key issues that needed to be addressed:

Updated Curriculum: Last year, the department changed courses to 4 credit hours from 3 credit hours. This is consistent with History and English. This change alone necessitated revisions to our curriculum. It also presented welcome opportunities to rethink entirely what we do and why we do it.

Our existing requirements focused on coursework in specific century studies. This chronologically-based division of the field was outmoded and did not make sufficient allowance for interdisciplinary interests. Moreover, the existing structure did not leverage the strengths of our faculty, who generally work across centuries and are highly interdisciplinary (literature and law, culture and medicine, race and diaspora studies, etc.).

The proposed curriculum resolves these issues by restructuring course requirements to include:

- Two levels of courses: Foundations and Special Topics.
  The Foundations courses offer students broad coverage of core areas in our field.
Special Topics courses are taught at a more advanced level and tap specific faculty research expertise. Neither Foundations nor Special Topics courses will be strictly defined by century-based chronology. Instead, Foundation courses will be divided offered more loosely around core texts and approaches in two general areas: Medieval/Early Modern and Post-18th Century Studies.

This change also makes staffing much easier for the department. In the past, some centuries were only officially covered by a single faculty member. By way of example: Holly Tucker was responsible for teaching all 17th century courses. Depending on leave schedule and other exigencies, this meant that if Professor Tucker was not on campus to teach this required area would go untaught. However, Tucker’s research spans more than a single century; she works in what is more commonly known as Early-Modern Studies. This mean that the texts and questions she addresses span across the 16th to the 18th centuries.

By grouping courses more loosely around Medieval/Early Modern and Post-19th Century Studies, there are many more faculty who can cover Foundations courses. This makes course rotation much easier, and we will be able to ensure that all required courses are offered at the most appropriate time in our students’ studies.

Faculty areas of teaching expertise:

Medieval/Early Modern: Brillaud, Miller, Ramey, Tucker

Post 18th-Century: Barsky, Debrauwere-Miller, Froment-Meurice, Miller, Sharpley-Whiting

- In addition to Foundation and Special Topics courses, we have added a third broad category of courses: Theory, Methods, Applied Linguistics with a strong core faculty in these areas as well.

Once again, this grouping allows us greater flexibility in who can teach the course and how often the various courses can be offered.

Faculty areas of teaching expertise:

Theory: Barsky, Brillaud, Debrauwère-Miller, Froment-Meurice, Miller, Mirabile

Research Methods: Barsky, Ramey, Tucker

Applied Linguistics: Scott

- Delete History of the Language requirement. We have found this to be unnecessary for our students’ preparation. Moreover, our department does not have a linguist sufficiently trained in this area.
More Time to Complete Dissertation: By updating our curriculum and making it more consistent with best practices in our field, we have eliminated redundancies and inefficiencies in our curriculum. This has, then, allowed us to move up the time to ABD status by at least one semester. Our students will benefit from this additional time—and be more likely to have scheduled their defense—before going onto the job market in their last two semesters of study.

To this effect, we have moved:

- The language exam to year 3, semester 1 (from year 4)
- The committee/reading list approval for qualifying exams to year 2, semester 2 (from year 3, semester 1)
- The qualifying exams to year 3, semester 1 (from year 3, semester 2)
- Moved the thesis proposal presentation to year 3, semester 2 (from year 4, semester 1).

We have also provided in the guidelines as “Progress to Degree at a Glance.” This grid offers a visual presentation of the prose regulations and will be helpful to students and their advisors as they move through the program.

The department is confident that the proposed timetable for coursework, exams, and the dissertation is reasonable and can be completed within the 5 years of support we offer to each incoming student.

Clarification of Procedures: There has long been concern that our existing guidelines did not sufficiently establish consistent policies in regard to a number of benchmarks related to progress-to-degree.

To this effect, we have:

- Formalized an annual review process for all graduate students
- Set semester-based GPA benchmarks for adequate progress in addition to the overall GPA requirements set by the Graduate School (Richard Hoover confirmed our indices here are appropriate)
- Established clear procedures for placing a student on probation—and lifting probation requirements
- Clarified procedures and expectations the reading knowledge exam
- Clarified procedures and expectations regarding the development of reading lists for qualifying exams

These revisions will reduce potential confusion and will, again, allow students to move through the program efficiently and with the greatest possibility of success.

Summary

In all, our revisions have been a long time coming. While curriculum revision can often provoke contention and disagreement in a department, this was certainly not at the case here.
There has long been consensus in the department regarding the areas above that needed to be addressed. After much collegial and productive discussion, several drafts of the new curriculum were reviewed by the graduate faculty in FRIT. By the time the new curriculum and guidelines went to a vote, it was unanimous.

Both the Director of Graduate Studies (Tucker) and the Department Chair (Ramey) have modeled course offerings over a 5 year period. We confirm that no additional staff or resources will be required for these changes. Moreover, these changes require no modification to the French PhD assessment plan.

Thank you for your attention to this proposal. Our many thanks as well to the Committee of Graduate Education, Kathryn Schwarz (Chair, CGE), Dean Greene, and Jonathan Bremer for the time and care that they have given this proposal over these past many months.

**CATALOGUE COPY:**

Degree offered: *French, Doctor of Philosophy*

REQUIREMENTS for the Ph.D. degree include a total of 52 credit hours of course work, taken in the Department of French and Italian and in other departments with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. French 310 and French 380 are required as part of the 36 credit hours that make up the M.A. component of the degree. A comprehensive examination, based on a departmental reading list, must be taken no later than before the beginning of classes in student’s fourth semester of study, and students who successfully pass the exam enter the Ph.D. stage.

Requirements for the Ph.D. include 52 credit hours of course work. Students are expected to begin to register for research credit no later than their fifth semester of study. Up to 20 credit hours may be taken as research credit. Students are required to take F300 and 310 during their first year of study. In addition to French and English, doctoral candidates must demonstrate a reading knowledge of an additional language to be determined in consultation with the student’s dissertation advisor. Other regulations governing graduate work are available from the director of graduate studies.

The Jean and Alexander Heard Library’s rich collection of French materials makes research possible in all periods of French literature. The library’s special collections department also houses the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, the Pascal Pia collection (nineteenth and twentieth-century literary criticism), the Gilbert Sigaux collection (twentieth-century French literature), and the Wachs collection (eighteenth-century fiction and almanachs).

The French department has formal ties to the Université de Provence through its Vanderbilt in France program, McGill University through its Vanderbilt-McGill Initiative, and the Sorbonne through MICEFA.
FORMAL GUIDELINES FOR GRAD HANDBOOK AND WEBSITE (Proposed)

COURSES OFFERED IN THE DEPARTMENT

There are four types of courses offered at the graduate level in French.

Foundation Courses are intended as graduate-level survey courses. These courses ensure that students have been exposed to a selection of major texts in each of the four categories below. Texts for these courses will be drawn primarily from the M.A. reading list.

- Medieval and Early Modern (to 1800)
- Post-Eighteenth Century
- Theory, Methods and Applied Linguistics

Foundation courses in Medieval/Early Modern and Post 18th-Century may be organized synchronically around a specific century or presented diachronically with a clear thematic focus within the larger time period covered in the broad category. Foundation courses may focus on hexagonal France, Francophone areas, or both.

Courses in Theory, Methods and Second Language Acquisition typically include: French 380 (Theory), French 300 (Research Methods) and French 318 (Applied Linguistics).

Special Topics Courses are specialized research seminars.

Elective Courses are taken outside of the department. All elective courses must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. For students who have completed the M.A., electives must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the exam/dissertation committee chair.

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN FRENCH

The Department of French & Italian does not admit students wishing only to complete a terminal M.A. degree. Students typically earn an M.A. en route to the Ph.D.

All students entering the program take the M.A exam. Students entering the program with a M.A. in French from another institution are required to pass the M.A. exam in order to continue to the Ph.D. qualifying exams.

Students entering without a M.A. typically do not teach in their first year. Students who matriculate with a M.A. in French from another institution will begin teaching in their first year.

Per Graduate School regulations, 6 credit hours of previous graduate work is transferrable toward required graduate credit hours at Vanderbilt. Students wishing to transfer credit hours should provide the Director of Graduate Studies copies of the syllabus and all work completed in the course(s) for which they are requesting transfer credit. All members of the department graduate faculty will review the materials and vote to approve or deny the credit request.
Degree Requirements

- **36 credit hours of course work** (9 courses). With the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies, students may take up to two courses in departments other than French & Italian. In the student’s first year, a minimum of three courses each semester must be taken in the department.

Required Course Distribution for the M.A.
- French 310 (4 credit hours)
- French 380 (4 credit hours)
- 2 Foundations: Medieval/Early Modern (8 credit hours)
- 2 Foundations: Post 18th-Century (8 credit hours)
- 2 Special Topics or Interdisciplinary Course (8 credit hours)
- 1 Additional course (Foundations, TMS, Special Topics, or Elective)

M.A. Milestones (Summary)

Year One, first semester: Diagnostic Language Exam

Year Two, second semester: M.A. exam (no later than one week before classes begin)

Year Two, second semester: Faculty review, M.A. awarded, admission to Ph.D. program (if appropriate)

- **Diagnostic Language Examination** A diagnostic language examination will be given to all incoming graduate students. This exam, coordinated by the language program director and the Director of Graduate Studies, includes a 30-minute "free-write" and a 15-minute oral interview. The results of this test will serve to plan the student's program of study, which may include 200-level advanced language courses. These courses will be taken in addition to the regular graduate course load and, per graduate school rules, will be non-credit bearing.

- **Comprehensive Examination**
  The M.A. examination is based on an approved reading list. It must be taken in no later than one week before classes start in the student’s third semester of study. The format will be an overnight, take-home, open-book examination to test the student's ability to read and interpret specific textual passages and to teach literature through thinking about works in a global fashion. The exam will be written by members of the Graduate Studies Committee and administered by the Director of Graduate Studies.

  The examination will be evaluated by the Graduate Studies Committee according to two separate criteria: (1) quality of argument, depth and appropriate use of background knowledge, and analytic skills; and (2) linguistic competence and eloquence.
The Graduate Studies Committee can recommend one of the following three outcomes: High Pass, Low Pass, or Fail. The graduate faculty of the Department must review and approve the evaluation by the Graduate Studies committee before notifying the student of the outcome of the examination. In the event of a failing grade, the student will be given the option to retake the failed exam.

**Faculty Review**
By February 1 of the student’s fourth semester in the program, department faculty will make a comprehensive review of the individual's academic work, based on the following evidence: course work, examination results, as well as an evaluation from the language program director in regard to teaching performance (where applicable). Students who show clear evidence of excellence and promise will receive the M.A. and be invited to continue toward the Ph.D.

If the student completes the M.A. requirements and passes the M.A. exam but is not admitted to the Ph.D. program, they will earn a terminal M.A. degree at the end of their fourth semester.

**Ph.D. DEGREE IN FRENCH**
- 36 credit hours of course work as required for the M.A.
- 16 additional credit hours (4 courses), for a total of 52 credit hours (13 courses)
- Required course distribution for Ph.D. (includes courses taken for M.A.)
  - French 310 (4 credit hours)
  - French 380 (4 credit hours)
  - 2 Foundations: Medieval/Early Modern (8 credit hours)
  - 2 Foundations: Post 18th-Century (8 credit hours)
  - 2 Special Topics or Interdisciplinary Course (8 credit hours)
  - 5 Additional courses (Foundations, TMS, Special Topics, or Elective)
- Total of 72 credit hours, of which at least 52 must be from formal coursework

**Ph.D. Milestones (Summary)**
Year Two, semester two: Student admitted to Ph.D. program upon faculty review of M.A. performance. Qualifying exam committee established and areas of specialization and reading list approved by committee (no later than finals week)

Year Three, preceding summer: Qualifying Exam preparation

Year Three, semester one: Qualifying Exams (no later than one week before classes)
begin), language reading exam or coursework completed (no later than end of semester)

Year Three, semester two: presentation of dissertation proposal (no later than one week before classes begin). ABD status

Year Four: Dissertation

Year Five: Dissertation and job search

**Reading Knowledge of an Additional Language**
In addition to French and English, candidates must demonstrate a reading knowledge of an additional language, to be determined in consultation with the student’s dissertation advisor. Students may demonstrate this knowledge either by receiving a B+ or higher in a 200-level literature course in the language or by a test to show ability to do research in the foreign language.

The language test will consist of a passage in the target language consisting of two or three paragraphs taken from an academic article, which may or may not be directly related to the student’s area of specialization. The student will translate the passage into English, writing by hand with the use of a bilingual dictionary. The exam will take place in the department, with no computer, and last two hours.

The translation should demonstrate that the student has sufficient understanding of the target language for research purposes. This means that the translation should represent both the content and, to a certain degree, the style of the passage that is being translated.

Students must complete the language requirement by the fifth semester of study.

**Choice of Specialization and Reading List**
After completing the M.A. exam in the fourth semester of study, the student is expected to identify an area of specialization (including, but not limited to, the subject of the dissertation) and an appropriate exam committee is chosen. This committee should consist of five faculty members of which at least three must be from the department.

During the fourth semester, the student prepares an extensive reading list on this area of specialization, in consultation with the exam committee. The list must be sufficient to cover a major time period and must emphasize two components:

- Historical, cultural, and theoretical backgrounds pertinent to the student's projected dissertation.
- Primary and secondary texts pertinent to the individual's area of specialization.

The department does not impose numerical requirements on reading lists; the length of each list will be determined through consultation between the student and her or his exam committee members. These lists tend to fall between 50 and 75 texts. However, there has always been
considerable variation, depending on the field and the student. Each student should have an early
discussion with her or his exam committee members—in the fourth semester before submission
of preliminary lists—that sets target numbers.

Qualifying Examinations
The Ph.D. qualifying examination consists of two parts: a series of written exam questions and
an oral exam centered around the student’s dissertation proposal. The written exams must be
completed before the beginning of TA orientation in the first semester of the student’s third year.
The thesis proposal oral exam must be completed no later than one week before classes begin in
the second semester of the student’s third year.

• Written Examination
By the end of the second semester of the student’s second year, the student submits the
completed reading list and six proposed examination topics/questions to the committee.
The exam committee uses these questions as a basis for preparing the examination
questions, but has the right to modify them, add to them, or discard them. The written
examination takes place over two days (not necessarily consecutive) before TA
orientation in the student’s first semester of the third year. On each day, the student will
have six hours to answer one or two essay questions. The student may consult any
sources s/he chooses. At least one exam must be written in French. These exams may be
taken at home.

Exam day 1: This part of the exam should reflect a broad understanding of the area in
which the student is specializing

Exam day 2: This part of the exam should reflect a more focused understanding of the
student's area of specialization

The exam is evaluated PASS or FAIL by the doctoral committee by the end of the fourth week of
the semester. The committee director communicates the result of the exam to the student. If one
(or more) of the exam areas is considered weak, the student may be asked to repeat it. The exam
committee will decide whether the student will retake the failed portion of the exam or whether a
new question will be given. The student must retake the exam within one month of the first try.
If the student does not pass again, he or she will be dismissed from the program. Once the
student has successfully passed the written examination, the date of the thesis proposal oral exam
will be set.

• Dissertation Proposal
In the dissertation proposal, the candidate should clarify the nature of his/her dissertation,
demonstrate its relevance, define its methodology, situate it in terms of existing
scholarship, and include a tentative breakdown into chapters. The proposal should be 10-
20 pages in length, plus a preliminary bibliography, and should be written in the language
of the proposed dissertation (English or French). After consulting with the dissertation
director, the proposal is circulated to all members of the graduate faculty.
• **Presentation of the Dissertation Proposal**

At the beginning of the second semester of the student’s third year, a one-hour session is scheduled for the dissertation proposal. All faculty and graduate students in French are invited to attend. The exam committee, guided by the director, participates in a discussion with the student, asking clarifying questions and offering suggestions. The other invited members of the department may participate if time allows. At the end of the session, the doctoral committee deliberates and determines if the candidate's proposal is acceptable. The following day, the director communicates the result of the discussion to the student.

If the student passes the dissertation proposal, the official dissertation committee is appointed. If the student does not pass the proposal, they will have up to two months to rework the proposal and to sit for a second oral exam. If the student does not pass the second exam, she or he may be dismissed from the program.

This official dissertation committee will consist of a dissertation director from within the department, three other department faculty, and an outside reader. While the director is responsible for guiding the student through the dissertation process, it is understood that all members of the committee will be consulted on a regular basis and will have an opportunity to provide substantive feedback on the student’s work.

Committee members must receive the final version of the thesis at least 6 weeks before the intended defense date. No official defense date will be set until all committee members have had at least 2 weeks to review the final version of thesis and concur that the student is ready to defend.

All degree requirements must have been met (credit hours, course distribution, language exam) before the Graduate School will allow a defense date to be scheduled.

**Additional Policies and Standards:**

1. All funding is contingent on the student’s timely progress toward the M.A. and the Ph.D. as well as effective teaching in the classroom (if applicable). Failure to do one or both may result in dismissal from the program.

2. Students are expected to complete the dissertation by the end of the tenth (10th) semester. If the dissertation is not completed within three years of taking the qualifying exams, students will be required to reapply to the program and retake the qualifying exams.

3. In addition to the requirements above, all graduate students will be formally reviewed once a year, by February 1, by department faculty.

The Director of Graduate Studies will prepare a summary of each student’s progress, which will include: the student’s coursework, exams, teaching evaluations, progress to degree, and relevant discussions with the Director of Graduate Studies. Department faculty will review these reports.
and offer substantive directions to the student, which will be communicated to the student by the Director of Graduate Studies.

If the department has substantial concerns, the student will be placed on probation with written notification of their status sent to the Graduate School and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in the College of Arts & Sciences. If these concerns are not addressed to the satisfaction of the department by the next review period (or earlier as indicated), the student on probation may be removed from the program.

4. Continuation of funding is contingent first and foremost on performance in coursework, exams, and the student’s timely progress toward degree. Students are required to maintain a B average or better over the course of their studies. However, if a student receives two or more B-‘s in any given semester, she or he will be placed on immediate probation. Failure to earn all B’s or better in the following semester will result in the student’s removal from the program.

5. Students enrolled in research credits (French 399) who receive a grade of “unsatisfactory” will be placed on immediate probation. Any additional “unsatisfactory” will result in the student’s dismissal from the program.

6. We also expect satisfactory performance in all assigned teaching duties.

Each student will be formally evaluated by the Teaching Supervisor at least once a semester. In cases of teaching deficiencies, the student will work closely with the Teaching Supervisor to remedy any problems. A student may be placed on probation if the teaching deficiencies are considered substantial. The student will have one semester to remedy the problem(s). If the problems are not remedied after one semester, the student on probation will be dismissed from the program.
### Progress toward degree at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Student</th>
<th>Year 1*</th>
<th>Year 2: TA</th>
<th>Year 3: TA</th>
<th>Year 4: TA or France</th>
<th>Year 5: TA</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Med/Em Foundations Post 18th Foundations French 310</td>
<td>Med/EM Foundations Special Topics Additional course</td>
<td>Elective Research Hours (8)</td>
<td>F399 (0)</td>
<td>F399 (0)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diagnostic Language Exam [1 week before semester start]</td>
<td>MA Courses completed</td>
<td>Language Exam [1 week before semester start]</td>
<td>Qualifying Exams [No later than end of semester]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Post-18th Foundations French 380 Special Topic</td>
<td>Elective Elective Elective</td>
<td>Research Hours (12)</td>
<td>F399 (0)</td>
<td>F399 (0)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>_________ Dept Review Feb 1</td>
<td>MA Exam [1 week before semester start]</td>
<td>Dept Review Feb 1 Decision: continuation Appoint committee</td>
<td>ABD Status Dept Review Feb 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading List Approved [No later than end of semester]</td>
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<th>Prepare M.A. exam</th>
<th>Prepare qualifying exams and language exams</th>
<th>Dissertation</th>
<th>Dissertation</th>
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**PREVIOUS GUIDELINES**

**M.A. Degree Requirements**

**36 hours of course work** All courses may be taken in the Department of French & Italian. Courses may be taken outside the Department and a minor may be completed with the consent of the Director of Graduate Studies. Of the 36 hours of course work, 6 hours are required: French 300 (Introduction to Research) and French 310 (Foreign Language Teaching: Theory and Practice).

**Diagnostic Language Examination** A diagnostic language examination will be given to all incoming graduate students. This exam, coordinated by the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies, includes a 30-minute “free-write” and a 15-minute oral interview. The results of this test will serve to plan the student’s program of study and will not be part of the permanent file.

**Comprehensive Examination** The examination is based on an approved reading list. It must be taken no later than the second week of the student’s fourth semester, normally in January of the second year. The format will be an overnight, take-home, open-book examination to test the student’s ability to read and interpret specific textual passages and to teach literature though thinking about works in a global fashion.

**M.A. READING LIST**

The examination will be evaluated by a standing M.A. committee according to two separate criteria: (1) quality of argument, creative use of background knowledge, and analytic skills; and (2) linguistic competence and eloquence.

The graduate faculty of the Department must approve the evaluation by the standing M.A. committee before notifying the student of the outcome of the examination. Should the examination result be unsatisfactory, the student may retake it once before the end of the fourth semester.

Comprehensive Final Review. If a student has successfully completed the M.A. examination and wishes to enter the Ph.D. program, the standing M.A. committee will make a comprehensive review of the individual’s academic work, based on the following evidence: examination results and a dossier of seminar papers completed during the M.A. program. The graduate faculty will review the evaluation of the committee and make a decision regarding the student’s admission to the Ph.D. program.

**Ph.D. Degree Requirements**

- **72 hours of course work** The total number of hours for the Ph.D. is 72, with a minimum of 51 hours of required course work, including 14 seminars (300-level courses with research papers) in French, which must be distributed among six different time periods. Students are expected to begin to register for research credit during their fifth semester of study. Up to 21 hours may be taken as research credit. Of the required 51 hours of course work, 9 hours will be taken in a minor field.

- **Minor in Applied Linguistics** Students specializing in a literary field may complete a 9-hour minor in applied linguistics. The nine hours must be chosen in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair. French 310 may not be counted in the nine hours.

- **Interdisciplinary Minor in Philosophy and Literature** This 15-hour interdisciplinary minor is available to any student in good standing enrolled in a doctoral program in literature or philosophy. Contact Professor William Franke for more information.

**Required Courses**
Students are required to take French 300 and French 310 during their first year of study. During the second or third year of study, students are required to take one seminar in each of the following categories:

- **Language/Linguistics:** French 302, History of the French Language (required for any student specializing in medieval or Renaissance literature); French 318, Applied French Linguistics (required for any student specializing in applied linguistics); or French 320, Linguistics and the Study of French Literature.
- **Literary Theory and Criticism:** French 380, French Literary Theory, or an equivalent course outside the Department, by permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.

**Reading Knowledge of an Additional Language**

In addition to French and English, candidates must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a foreign language appropriate to his or her area of specialization. However, it is strongly recommended that students have a reading knowledge of both Latin and German. Students may demonstrate this knowledge either by taking a 200-level literature course in the language or by a test to show ability to do research in the foreign language.

**Choice of Specialization and Reading List**

By the second week of the fifth semester of study (third semester for students entering Vanderbilt with an M.A.), the student is expected to identify an area of specialization (including, but not limited to, the subject of the dissertation) and an appropriate doctoral committee is chosen. At this time the student begins to prepare an extensive reading list on this area of specialization, in consultation with the doctoral committee. The list must be sufficient to cover a major time period and must emphasize two components:

- Historical, cultural, and theoretical backgrounds pertinent to the student’s projected dissertation.
- Primary and secondary texts pertinent to the individual’s area of specialization.

**Qualifying Examination**

The Ph.D. qualifying examination consists of two parts: a series of written exam questions and a dissertation proposal. Both parts must be completed no later than the eighth week of the student’s seventh semester (fifth semester for students who enter Vanderbilt with a M.A. degree in French). The doctoral committee plays a formative and helpful role as the student develops the reading list and prepares for the examination.

1) **Written Examination** During the first two weeks of the semester, the student submits the completed reading list and six proposed examination topics/questions to the committee. The doctoral committee uses these questions as a basis for preparing the examination questions, but has the right to modify them, add to them, or discard them. The written examination takes place over two days (not necessarily consecutive) during the third week of the semester. On each day, the student will have six hours to answer one or two essay questions. The student may consult any sources s/he chooses. At least one exam must be written in French. These exams may be taken at home.

- **Exam day 1:** This part of the exam should reflect a broad understanding of the area in which the student is specializing (i.e., post-colonial France and Francophone literature; and area of literary inquiry for students specializing in Applied Linguistics).
- **Exam day 2:** This part of the exam should reflect a more focused understanding of the student’s area of specialization (i.e., literature of French West Africa; an understanding of current theories and research for students specializing in Applied Linguistics).

The exam is evaluated PASS or FAIL by the doctoral committee by the end of the fourth week of the semester. The committee director communicates the result of the exam to the student. If one (or more) of the exam areas is considered weak, the student may be asked to repeat it. Once the student has successfully passed the written examination, the date of the oral exam and presentation of the dissertation proposal will be set.
2) **Dissertation Proposal** In the dissertation proposal, the candidate should clarify the nature of his/her dissertation, demonstrate its relevance, define its methodology, situate it in terms of existing scholarship, and include a tentative breakdown into chapters. The proposal should be 10-20 pages in length, plus a preliminary bibliography, and should be written in the language of the proposed dissertation (English or French). After consulting with the dissertation director, the proposal is circulated to all members of the graduate faculty.

3) **Oral Exam and Presentation of the Dissertation Proposal** During the sixth week of the semester, a two-hour session is scheduled for the oral exam and the dissertation proposal. All faculty and graduate students in French are invited to attend. In the first hour of the session, committee members ask questions on the written exam. In the second hour, the student provides a brief (10-minute) overview of the project. The doctoral committee, guided by the director, participates in a discussion with the student, asking clarifying questions and offering suggestions. The other invited members of the department may participate if time allows. At the end of the session, the doctoral committee deliberates and determines if the candidate’s proposal is acceptable. The following day, the director communicates the result of the discussion to the student.

**Nota Bene:** Students are expected to complete the dissertation by the end of the tenth (10th) semester. If the dissertation is not completed within three years of taking the qualifying exams, students may be asked to retake the exams.

**Specialization in Applied Linguistics**
The general requirements are the same as for the specialization in literature, with the exception of the minor. For Applied Linguistics specialists, there is a required minor of 12 hours of interdisciplinary courses taken outside the Department. These courses may be taken in the College of Arts & Science and in Peabody College. They are to form an integrated whole according to the research interests and background of each student. They include such fields as linguistics, cognition, statistics, research methodology, and technology and learning. The minor is constructed with the advice of the student’s dissertation director, the Director of Graduate Studies, and faculty in related disciplines.

Reading Lists and Examinations: In consultation with the doctoral committee, students in Applied Linguistics will compile a primary reading list in their area of specialization and will take an examination in that area. Applied Linguistics students will also be required to compile a secondary, less extensive reading list in literature and culture. One of the two six-hour written examinations will deal with topics related to this secondary list. The oral examination will consist of questions on both the Applied Linguistics and literature/culture portions of the written examinations. The time frame and procedures for the examination and the presentation of the dissertation proposal are the same as those for students specializing in literature.