

Text from an *old* Romance Languages Graduate Student Handbook.

Written Exam Grading Guidelines

Professors are required to grade all exams within one week of administering them. The Graduate Student Services Manager will inform students of results as soon as all exams have been corrected.

For Second Year Qualifying Exams

Each question for the 2nd year qualifying exams will be graded based on the following guidelines:

H (High Pass) – In addition to meeting the minimal criteria for the grade of S, the answer shows superior analytical skill: no gaps in the argument, no unwarranted assumptions. Evidence in support of the answer is not only convincing but also plentiful. Answer does not contain factual errors or misreadings. High pass is only awarded in exceptional cases.

S (Satisfactory) – The answer shows a clear understanding of the question and focuses on it. The answer is well-organized and demonstrates familiarity with the relevant literary texts and—if required by the question—its relevance or its implications in a wider context, whether literary (i.e., the movement and genre the work exemplifies, etc.), intertextual, or historical. The answer is coherent and provides convincing evidence in its support. The answer may contain some errors, but they are not serious enough to undermine explicit statements or assumptions.

U (Unsatisfactory) – A poorly organized essay in which the focus wanders and comments are sketchy. Reader senses a limited understanding of the question or of the works discussed. Major factual errors or frequent irrelevant comments are present, or the answer is limited to plot-summary. Isolated comments may have some connection to the subject. Answer may omit references to specific texts, or refer to so few that it does not address the question satisfactorily.

→ **Question for you: Would we like to omit this section from a new handbook and make an effort to communicate our expectations to students in person, would we like to include this statement as-is in a new handbook, or would we like to revise this text for inclusion in the new handbook?**

Text from an *old* Romance Languages Graduate Student Handbook.

Written Exam Grading Guidelines

Professors are required to grade all exams within one week of administering them. The Graduate Student Services Manager will inform students of results as soon as all exams have been corrected.

For PhD Field Exams or Area of Specialization Exam

Each question for the PhD Field or Area of Specialization Exams will be graded based on the following guidelines:

H (High Pass) – In addition to meeting the criteria for a grade of S at the PhD level, the answer clearly demonstrates scholarly competence at, or very near, a professional level. There can be no doubt that the student is well on his/her way to becoming a scholar. High pass is only awarded in exceptional cases.

S (Satisfactory) – In addition to the minimal criteria required for the grade of S at the M.A. level, the answer shows clear evidence of critical insight and independent thought. It shows full awareness of the meaning and significance of the question and, when appropriate, of how it has been dealt with by others. The answer expresses a personal critical judgement, either agreement or disagreement with the question. This personal, critical judgment does not have to be “original.” Originality, per se, is not an evaluation criterion. Criticism and/or theory based on pertinent bibliography on the subject is applied when called for.

U (Unsatisfactory) – The answer may show some understanding of the question but is not well-focused. Though the topic may be addressed, plot summary, enumeration, and description predominate over analysis. Comments tend to be very general; few examples are given. Factual errors or misreadings may be present.

→ **Question for you: Would we like to omit this section from a new handbook and make an effort to communicate our expectations to students in person, would we like to include this statement as-is in a new handbook, or would we like to revise this text for inclusion in the new handbook?**