



## ANTH 686 Preliminary Exam Guidelines

*For the Fall semester, students registered for the ANTH 686 Examination will take it on the Monday following Thanksgiving Break.*

*For the Spring semester, students registered for the ANTH 686 Examination will take it on the last Monday in April.*

The preliminary exam consists of questions pertaining to the subject matter of ANTH 501, ANTH 502, and ANTH 503 intended to assess the depth and breadth of student knowledge. A file of sample questions is available for you in the department, which gives you an idea of what kind of questions may be asked.

- 1) The **preliminary examination** will be administered as a take-home exam. Students will be given four days to complete the examination. The examination is to be typed and turned in through the SafeAssign mechanism on the Blackboard site for Anthropology 686.
  - The exam questions will be given to students on Monday at 8:00 am. The exam will be submitted to the department by the end of the fourth day (Thursday) no later than 4:00 pm.
  - Students are to answer four questions, one each from ANTH 501, ANTH 502, and ANTH 503 and one additional question from one of the three classes. Make sure you type out the question you are going to answer.
  - The examination is to be typed, double spaced, in 12 point font.
  - The product of the exam should be a scholarly document referenced in a consistent format of the AAA style guide.
- 2) In addition, on or before the examination period, students are required to submit a **3-5 page prospectus/summary** of their proposed thesis/project to their advisor.
- 3) Within a week of the submission of the preliminary examination the student's advisor will schedule an **oral defense** of the examination and of the student's thesis/project proposal. The defense will be conducted by the student's advisory committee and chaired by the student's advisor, although all anthropology faculty members may attend.

Examinations will be read by an examination committee of three faculty members. An additional reader may be selected if deemed appropriate by the committee. The committee will evaluate the student's examination using a rubric scale (see below). When the members of the examination committee have reviewed the preliminary exam,

they will meet, discuss, and grade the student's performance. The student will be notified of the result of the exam by the Graduate Program Coordinator within one week following the exam.

Grading of the exam will be Failure (re-take), Pass, and High Pass. Failure means the student has not demonstrated depth and breadth by their performance. Pass indicates admission to candidacy having satisfactorily completed the exam, but maybe the basis upon which the department may recommend the thesis or project track to individual candidates. High Pass recognizes a high level of performance on the preliminary exam and permission to begin the MA thesis or MAA project.

A student failing the exam may request in writing of the academic unit head (Graduate Program Coordinator) a repeat of the exam. This request must be submitted within five days of the notification of the student's failure. If approved, the student must retake the exam within 12 months after the first attempt. If the department does not approve a retake of the exam, the student is withdrawn from the program by the Graduate College.

## ANTH 600 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION EVALUATION RUBRIC

	<b>1 = Retake</b>	<b>2 = Pass</b>	<b>3 = High Pass</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<b>1. Knowledge of subject matter demonstrated through responses to posed questions</b>	Demonstrates minimal knowledge of the subject matter through production of work that meets some established standards. Responses to posed questions:	Demonstrates acceptable knowledge of the subject matter through production of work that meets established standards. Responses to posed questions:	Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of the subject matter through production of work that goes beyond established standards. Responses to posed questions:	
<i>1.a. Insight</i>	Show minimal evidence of insight or original thinking	Show some insight, creativity, and original thinking	Are highly original and creative	
<i>1.b. Interpretation of disciplinary readings</i>	Exhibit some errors in interpreting disciplinary readings	Exhibit reasonable interpretation of disciplinary readings	Exhibit reflective interrogation of disciplinary readings	
<i>1.c. Analysis and synthesis of central concepts of subject</i>	Incorporate minimal analysis and synthesis of central concepts of the subject	Incorporate some analysis and synthesis of central concepts of the subject	Incorporate critical analysis and synthesis of central concepts or the subject	
<i>1.d. Understanding of link between discipline and other disciplines</i>	Reflect vague understanding of the nature of the discipline and its links to other disciplines	Reflect some understanding of the nature of the discipline and its links to other disciplines	Reflect a holistic view of the nature of the discipline and its links to other disciplines	
<i>1.e. Use of detail and specific examples</i>	Provide few details and examples	Provide some detail and specific examples	Provide detailed descriptions and numerous specific, vivid examples	
<b>2. Clarity of Thought</b>	<b>1 = Retake</b>	<b>2 = Pass</b>	<b>3 = High Pass</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<i>2.a. Use of language and vocabulary</i>	Exhibits adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language	Uses appropriate language/vocabulary	Uses very precise, skillful language	
<i>2.b. Demonstration of connections</i>	Demonstrates adequate connections	Moderate to strong connections are made	Strong connections are made	
<i>2.c. Use of key points</i>	Some key points	Most key points are	Several key	

	are demonstrated, but some lapses in coherence or progression of ideas	made	points are made	
<i>2.d. Use of critical ideas</i>	Critical ideas are vague or limited	Critical ideas are included	Outstanding demonstration of critical thinking	
<i>2.e. Adequacy of responses to questions</i>	Not all parts of question are answered	All parts of the question are fully answered	All parts of the questions are fully answered	
<b>3. Professional and Presentation Skills</b>	<b>1 = Retake</b>	<b>2 = Pass</b>	<b>3 = High Pass</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<i>3.a. Presence of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics</i>	Essay contains an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	Essay is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	The essay is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	
<i>3.b. Organization</i>	Is limited in organization or focus	Is well organized and focused	Clear organization is obvious	
<i>3.c. Presence of scholarly voice</i>	A lapse in using a scholarly voice is evident	A scholarly voice is used throughout most	A scholarly, thoughtful voice is used throughout. At least 2 citations are used	