

China Studies Program Capstone Exam 2019

Each graduating China Studies student is required to complete a 50-minute oral examination as the capstone of his or her study in the concentration. Two China Studies professors will conduct the oral exam.

Each student will prepare, in advance, a topic that will be the basis for discussion during the exam. The student will begin the exam by orally presenting a summary of this topic to the examiners. The examiners will then engage the student in a discussion about the prepared topic; students should be prepared to have a discussion focused on their topic for at least 20 minutes of the 50-minute exam. For the remaining 30 minutes or so, the examiners will also ask the student questions about other China Studies courses and subject matter with reference to the student's SAIS transcript.

Topic preparation and presentation: The program will assign two examiners and schedule an examination period for each student **from May 6 to May 8, 2019**. Each student must submit in writing his or her discussion topic to the program office at least **two business days** before their exam.* The student's discussion topic will be explained in a double-spaced essay, not to exceed 500 words, clearly stating the policy issue or problem to be discussed with a brief analysis of the issue or problem, and suggesting possible policy prescriptions or recommendations. The written essay should not contain any complex charts or be heavy on quantitative data. The student may bring a copy of this essay to the oral exam, but may not read it to examiners. Students are encouraged to prepare their essay on a topic they are very familiar with, based on their coursework in the concentration.

Grading: Students receive a satisfactory (pass) or fail on the China Studies oral capstone exam. This will appear on the student's transcript. If a student fails the exam, s/he will not graduate in May 2019 and must reschedule the exam date with the China Studies program in time to graduate in December 2019.

Students graduating in December 2019 will do their Capstone Exam in December—tentative dates are **December 10-11, 2019**.

*Note: Students who fail to turn in their discussion topic by **48 hours** on the business day preceding their exam will not be permitted to take their oral exam and must reschedule their exam with the program. If a student fails to meet this deadline twice, or fails to reschedule his or her exam, he or she will automatically fail the China Studies capstone exam and will not graduate with China Studies concentration.