

**Graduate Programs in Theology
Loyola University Chicago**

**Comprehensive Examination Guidelines for the Ph.D. in
New Testament & Early Christianity
(Effective 9/99)**

Day One (three-hour tailored examination).

Students are given two questions of which they must answer one. The questions will involve the translation and interpretation of a passage from one of the texts from numbers 1-4 on the *Selection of Primary Sources for Comprehensive Examination*. The expectation is that the answer would exhibit an awareness of one or more major scholarly position(s) on the documents chosen.

It is understood that examining boards should regularly/irregularly offer two questions neither of which is about a Gospel. This is to prevent students simply assuming that the questions for the first day will include one of the chosen gospels.

Day Two (three-hour tailored examination).

Students are given two questions of which they must choose to answer one. The questions will be of a broader and more thematic nature and be about any of the texts chosen by the student from the *Selection of Primary Sources for Comprehensive Examination*. The expectation is that the answer would normally exhibit an awareness of the major issues in scholarship connected with the chosen texts.

Day Three (three-hour tailored examination).

Students are given three questions of which they must choose to answer two. There are two options for this examination. In either option the student normally should have taken one course in his or her chosen area.

The reading list for the third day will consist of 10-20 books or articles drawn up in cooperation with, and the approval of, the chair of the committee and member of the committee whose area this falls in. In addition, the reading list should not simply repeat what was done in course work but go beyond it.

1. A Related Field Examination: The questions would be based on a selection of primary and secondary material outside the immediate area of NT/EC. Examples of these related fields would be some aspect of the following areas: Old Testament literature and history, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Intertestamental Judaism, Hellenistic Judaism, Early Rabbinic Judaism, Gnosticism, Greco-Roman philosophy, history, religion, archaeology, papyrology, epigraphy, and Patristic Literature. Some of the reading lists would be drawn up with the cooperation of members of other departments.
2. An examination in the Area of Constructive Theology or Christian Ethics: The questions would be based on primary and secondary literature from the fields of either Constructive Theology or Christian Ethics. In this option the reading list could reflect either some aspect of these two fields in so far as they impinge on NT/EC (e.g. hermeneutics, New Testament and Early Christian Ethics) or simply be in the field of Constructive Theology or Christian Ethics. This option is basically a broadening and revision of our present examination for the third day.

Student's Name: _____

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY
Graduate Programs Office

Ph.D. in New Testament & Early Christianity
Selection of Primary Sources for Comprehensive Exam

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING FALL 1998 OR LATER (revised 4/17/02)

At least two months before the scheduled comprehensive examination, select the primary sources below on which you wish to be examined in consultation with the Chair of you Ph.D. Comps Board. The selections below will be in addition to the 4 required primary sources on the Ph.D. Comps Reading List for the NT/EC section, for a total of 14 primary sources. Obtain your Chair's signature at the bottom of this form, keep a copy for your records, provide a copy for the chair of the examining board and turn in the original to the Graduate Program Director. Preparation of **entire documents** in Greek are indicated by an asterix.

- *1. _____ (One Gospel: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- *2. _____ (One major Pauline letter: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians)
- *3. _____ (One later New Testament writing or group of related writings: Acts, Ephesians and Collosians, the Pastoral letters [1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus], Hebrews, Petrine letters [1 Peter, 2 Peter] and Jude, the Johannine letters [1-2-3 John], Revelation)
- *4. _____ (One Apostolic Father: 1 Clement, 2 Clement, Barnabas, Didache, Martyrdom of Polyarp, Polycarp to the Philippians, the seven Letters of Ignatius of Antioch, Hermas Visions 1-5)
- 5. _____ (One Nag Hammadi Gnostic tractate in English translation: the Godpel of Truth, the Apocryphon of John, the Gospel of Phillip, the Gospel of the Egyptians, the Trimorphic Protennoia, the Treatise on the Ressurrection, the Tripartite Tractate, the dialogue of the Savior, the Apocalypse of Adam)
- 6. **NO CHOICE** Gospel of Thomas
- 7. _____ (One second century apologist: Justin 1 Apology [select passages]; Athenagoras, Supplication for the Christians; Theophilus, To Autolykus; Minucius Felix, Octavius [Latin]; Tertulian, Apology [select passages, Latin])
- 8. **NO CHOICE** Tertullian, Adversus Praxean 1-9 [Latin]
- 9. **NO CHOICE** Origen, De principiis 1.1-2.3 [Latin]

10. _____ (One major Qumran document: Rule of the Community (1QS), War Scroll, Damascus Document, Hodayoth, Temple Scroll)
11. _____ (One Jewish apocalypse: 1 Enoch 1-36, 1 Enoch 37-71, 2 Enoch, 4 Ezra, Apocalypse of Abraham, 2 Baruch)
12. **NO CHOICE** Josephus Against Apion
13. _____ (One of three works of Philo: De vita Mosis, De opificio mundi, or De decalogo)
14. _____ (One early Jewish novelistic composition: Tobith, Judith Jubilees, Joseph and Aseneth, Life of Adam and Eve, Pseudo-Philo, 3 Maccabees, 4 Maccabees)

Chair of Ph.D. Comps Board signature: _____
 Date: _____

Secondary Sources

- Aune, David E. The New Testament in Its Literary Environment. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1987.
- Bultmann, Rudolf. Theology of the New Testament. Trans. Kendrick Grobel. 2 Vols. New York: Scribner's, 1951-55.
- Collins, Raymond F. Introduction to the New Testament. Garden City: Doubleday, 1983.
- Grant, Robert M. The Greek Apologists. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1988.
- Kelly, J.N.D. Early Christian Doctrines. 2nd ed. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1978.
- Koester, Helmut. Introduction to the New Testament. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982.
- Metzger, Bruce M. The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development and Significance. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.
- Neill, S. and T. Wright. The Interpretation of the New Testament 1861-1986. 2nd ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.