

Comprehensive Exam Areas/Topics Examples

These areas and topics are recent examples from approved graduate student comprehensive exams. The list is not intended to represent all possible topics and areas. Topics and areas are supposed to be broader than the dissertation and should represent subjects that might be suitable topics for an advanced undergraduate or graduate seminar. All topics and areas must be approved by the student's Guidance Committee and by the Graduate Curriculum and Programs Committee.

Typically, students will choose one geographic area and one topic. Occasionally, a student (usually in physical anthropology) will have two topics instead. In this situation, the student must present an explanation, within the Bibliography, as to why two topics are most appropriate, rather than a topic and a geographic area.

Geographic Areas	Topics
West Africa	Anthropology of Health
Anglophone West Africa	Anthropology of Disability
East Africa	Critical Medical Anthropology
South Africa	Medical Anthropology
Caribbean	Infectious Disease
Europe	Self and Society
Focus on the Southern Cone	Maintenance and Construction of Identity
Northern Pacific Rim	International Migration and Transnationalism
Mexico	The Anthropology of Development
Central America	Anthropology of Development and Identity
Archaeology of South Asia	Political Ecology and Development
Archaeology of Northern Eurasia	Anthropology and Economics
PreHispanic Mesoamerica	Legal Anthropology
Caribbean Archaeology	Psychological Anthropology
Northeastern North American Archaeology	Anthropological Theory: Structuralism
Archaeology of the American Southwest	Race in the USA
Archaeology of the Eastern Woodlands	Forensic Anthropology
Mesoamerican Archaeology (emphasis on West Mexico)	Skeletal Biology
Archaeology of the American Southeast from Contact to the Antebellum Period	Biocultural Adaptations
Archaeology of North America (focus on Eastern Woodlands)	Bioarchaeology
Archaeology of North America (focus on Great Lakes)	Culture Contact and Colonialism
	Ceramic Production and Distribution
	Evolution of Complex Societies
	Theories of Social Change
	Landscapes in Archaeology
	Social Integration and Spatial Behavior in Small Scale Societies
	Spatial Organization of Social Behavior
	Culture Contact: Trade and Exchange
	Ceramic Style
	Cultural Landscapes
	Craft Production and Distribution (focus on lithics)
	The Capitalist World System and Expanding World Economies