1. Talal Asad, *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam*
2. Catherine Bell, *Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice*
5. Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concepts of Pollution and Taboo*
6. Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*
8. Sigmund Freud, *Totem and Taboo: Resemblances Between the Psychic Lives of Savages and Neurotics*
9. Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures* (Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, 7)
10. William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*
12. Russell T. McCutcheon, *Critics not Caretakers: Redescribing the Public Study of Religion*
15. Kimberley C. Patton and Benjamin C. Ray, eds., *A Magic Still Dwells: Comparative Religion in the Postmodern Age*
18. Michael T. Taussig, *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America*
21. Tisa Wenger, *We Have a Religion: The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom*


**Comprehensive Exam Procedures**

Full-time students should normally take the comprehensive exam before enrolling in their third semester in the program. Part-time students should take the exam when they have completed 18 credit hours in the program, but are encouraged to take their exam earlier if possible. Extra time can be granted under extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of the faculty. An application for extension must be filed with the department by March 15th in the year when the student was scheduled to take the exam.

Only grades of Pass/Not Pass will be given. Passing the exam is a requirement for continuing in the program. A student who does not pass the exam initially may try again, usually at the end of the summer after the first failed attempt. Students who do not pass for a second time may make a third attempt, usually around six months later. Teaching assistantships may be suspended for students who fail to pass their
comprehensive exam twice. A student may attempt the exam a total of three times. A student who fails to pass the exam three times will normally be discontinued from the program.

The exam will consist of essay questions which will be based on a reading list distributed to the students in the early fall. The exam questions will be written and graded by a rotating committee of two faculty members. If the two faculty members do not concur in their evaluation of the student, a third faculty member may be brought in to decide whether the student should pass the exams. Past exam questions will be kept on file in the department.

The exam will consist of three essay questions, which will be emailed to all students taking the exam. The students will then have twenty-four hours to submit their essays by email. Students will be notified about their exam results in writing, and will also receive a short feedback report.

Students who are eligible to take the comprehensive exams should notify the director of graduate studies by March 15, so that a date can be scheduled. There will normally only be one exam given each year in May. Make-up exams may be scheduled under extraordinary circumstances.

(Revised 3/2017)