

# Comprehensive Examination and Reading List in Spanish Languages and Literatures (for both MA-LLC and MA-LLCP)

The reading list is revised and updated periodically by the Graduate faculty.

Revised January 2021

This list covers the Language, Literature and Culture portion of both the MA-LLC and MA-LLCP degrees. MA-LLCP students will consult the Foreign Language Pedagogy list for pedagogy-related procedures and readings.

## Part One: The Exam

The examination for the MA degree in Languages, Literatures and Cultures is designed to test the student's mastery of the works of Hispanic literature on the MA Reading list. It emphasizes not only the content (plot, setting, characters, etc.) of each work but also its implicit values and its aesthetic and philosophical underpinnings. An understanding of the contribution of each work to its own period is expected. Students should have a grasp both of the major Spanish literary movements and of the cultural and historical context in which they arose. The exam is administered in November/December and in April/May of each academic year and has two parts: written and oral. Both the written and the oral portions of the exam are conducted entirely in Spanish.

Students must submit their finalized reading lists to their GSC language representative by the last day of September (fall exams) or the last day of February (spring exams).

### A. The Written Examination

**MA-LLC students** will choose six of seven literary periods/areas to prepare for the exam. Students must have taken at least one course in the period/area not selected. Students must have taken at least one course in seven different literary periods or areas, and they must select six of those periods/areas for their written examination.

The written examination will focus on the Reading Lists for the six periods/areas chosen. It will consist of:

1. Six short essays/identifications, one for each period/area (60-75 minutes).
2. Longer, focused essay in the period/area of the student's choice (60-90 minutes).
3. Textual Analysis: an organized analytical description of a text selected from a period other than the one the student has chosen for the focused essay. (60-75 minutes)

*Four hours will be allotted for the examination; the time limit will be strictly observed.*

**MA-LLCP students** must have taken at least one course in five different literary periods or areas, and they must select four of those periods/areas for their written examination.

The literature/culture exam for MA-LLCP students will have two parts as follows:

1. Four short essays/ identifications, one for each period/area. (60-75 minutes)
2. Textual Analysis: an organized analytical description of a text selected by the examination committee from one of the four periods chosen by the student for the part 1. (60-75 minutes)

*Three hours will be allotted for this examination; the time limit will be strictly observed.*

#### **Between the written and oral exam:**

After the written examination, **students may contact their Graduate Studies representative** for general feedback during the time period that precedes the oral examination.

In cases where the written exam is a clear failure that cannot be redeemed by a strong oral exam, students will be informed that they may not take the oral. Students who fail all or part of the MA comprehensive exams may retake the exam (or part thereof) only once.

#### **B. The Oral Examination**

**The oral exam of MA-LLC students** will focus on the Reading Lists for **three out of six** periods/areas chosen (randomly selected by the examination committee), course work, and any questions arising from the written examination. 30 minutes will be allotted for this portion of the exam.

**The oral exam of MA-LLCP students** will focus on the Reading Lists for **two out of four** periods/areas chosen (randomly selected by the examination committee), course work, and any questions arising from the written examination. 30 minutes will be allotted for this portion of the exam.

### **Part Two: The Reading List**

**MA-LLC students** create a reading list individualized to their specific program of study.

1. To individualize their list, each student selects **7 works** from each of **6 of the 7 literary periods/** areas.
2. To this list, 10 additional literary works may be chosen from among course materials; theoretical or critical works may also be chosen upon approval by a faculty adviser or graduate studies adviser. These materials should represent a focused study on a specific period or author, or a concentration (for example, children's literature, new approaches to the canon, creative writing, new media studies, film studies, material culture studies, urban studies, genre studies, gender studies).
3. NB: If a student selects material falling outside of the selected literary periods/areas as part of their additional literary works, their examination may include extra questions.

**MA-LLCP** students will have a reduced reading list and a reduced number of periods/areas to prepare for their literature/culture examination.

1. To individualize their list, each student selects **5 works** from **4 of the 7 literary periods/areas**.
2. To this list, 3 additional literary works may be chosen from among course materials; theoretical or critical works may also be chosen upon approval by a faculty adviser or graduate studies adviser. These materials should represent a focused study on a specific period or author, or a concentration (for example, children's literature, new approaches to the canon, creative writing, new media studies, film studies, material culture studies, urban studies, genre studies, gender studies).
3. NB: If a student selects material falling outside of the selected literary periods/areas as part of their additional literary works, their examination may include extra questions

**MA-LLC** students select **7 works** from each of **6 areas**

**MA-LLCP** students select **5 works** from each of **4 areas**

## I. Medieval

1. *Cantar de mio Cid*
2. Gonzalo de Berceo, *Milagros de nuestra señora*
3. Alfonso el Sabio, *Prosa histórica* (selecciones)
4. *Libro de Alexandre* (o *Libro de Apolonio*)
5. *Sendebar*
6. *Vida de Sta. María Egipcíaca*
7. Juan Ruiz, Arcipreste de Hita, *Libro de buen amor*
8. *Mocedades de Rodrigo*
9. Juan Manuel, *El conde Lucanor*
10. Alfonso Martínez de Toledo, *Arcipreste de Talavera o el corbacho*
11. Poesía de cancionero (selecciones)
12. Romancero viejo (selecciones)
13. Juan de Flores, *Grisel y Mirabella*
14. Diego de San Pedro, *Cárcel de amor*
15. Fernando de Rojas, *La Celestina*

## II. Golden Age

### Prosa

1. Anónimo, *La vida de Lazarillo de Tormes y de sus fortunas y adversidades*
2. Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, *El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha*
3. Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, *Novelas ejemplares*
4. Francisco de Quevedo, *El Buscón*
5. Garcí Rodríguez de Montalvo, *Amadís de Gaula* (selecciones del libro I)

## Teatro

6. Lope de Vega, *Fuenteovejuna*
7. Tirso de Molina, *El burlador de Sevilla*
8. Juan Ruiz de Alarcón, *La verdad sospechosa*
9. Pedro Calderón de la Barca, *La vida es sueño*
10. Ana Caro, *Valor, agravio y mujer*

## Poesía

11. Selecciones de *Poesía lírica del Siglo de Oro*. Ed. Elías Rivers. Madrid, Cátedra, 2011:
  - a. Garcilaso de la Vega: Soneto I, V, XXIII; Canción V; Égloga I
  - b. Fray Luís de León: Oda I, VII, VIII, X, Décima
  - c. San Juan de la Cruz: Canciones II (“Noche oscura”), III (“Llama de amor viva”)
  - d. Luis de Góngora: Sonetos LXXXII, CIII, CIX, CLXVI
  - e. Francisco de Quevedo: Sonetos 2, 3, 29, 471, Letrilla satírica 669

## **III. Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Peninsular**

1. Bécquer, Gustavo Adolfo. *Rimas, Leyendas*
2. Cadalso, José. *Cartas Marruecas, Solaya o los Circasianos*
3. Espronceda, José de. *Estudiante de Salamanca*, Canto II “A Teresa” from *El Diablo Mundo*
4. Feijoo. Benito Jerónimo. *Teatro crítico universal* (Letras Hispánicas, Cátedra)
5. Gómez de Avellaneda, Gertrudis. *Egílona, Saul, Baltasar*
6. Fernández de Moratín, Leandro. *El sí de las niñas*, ed. de Abraham Madroñal, Castalia Didáctica, 2011
7. Larra, Mariano José de. *Artículos de Costumbres, Macías*
8. Pérez Galdós, Benito. *Doña Perfecta*
9. Selections in J.H.R. Polt’s *Poesía del siglo XVIII* (Clásicos Castalia): María Gertrudis Hore, Juan Melendez Valdés, Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos, Manuel Quintana, Nicasio Alvarez Cienfuegos
10. Selections in J. Urrutia’s *Poesía española del siglo XIX* (Cátedra): Rosario Acuña, Carolina Coronado, Manuela Cambrónero, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, Rosalía de Castro, Francisco Martínez de la Rosa, Ángel Saavedra, Jose de Espronceda
11. Quintana, Manuel José. *Pelayo*
12. Saavedra, Ángel (el Duque de Rivas). *Don Álvaro o la fuerza del sino*
13. Selección de cuentos del siglo XIX. (Ed. Clásicos edebé)
14. Zorrilla, José, *Don Juan Tenorio*

## **IV. Contemporary (Twentieth and Twenty-first century) Peninsular**

1. Miguel de Unamuno, *San Manuel bueno, mártir*
2. Federico García Lorca, *La casa de Bernarda Alba*
3. Antonio Machado, *Campos de Castilla*

4. Camilo José Cela, *La familia de Pascual Duarte*
5. Carmen Laforet, *Nada*
6. Ignacio Aldecoa, *Cuentos completos*, ed. Josefina Aldecoa
7. Ramón Sender, *Réquiem por un campesino español*
8. Ana María Matute, *Primera memoria*
9. Mercè Rodoreda, *La Plaza del Diamante*
10. Bernardo Atxaga, *Obabakoak*
11. Carmen Martín Gaité, *El cuarto de atrás*
12. Manuel Rivas, *¿Qué me quieres, amor?*
13. Javier Cercas, *Soldados de Salamina*
14. Carme Riera, *La mitad del alma*
15. Películas (Favor de escoger dos de las siguientes opciones para esta sección):
  - a. Luis García Berlanga, *¡Bienvenido, Mr. Marshall!*
  - b. Juan Antonio Bardem, *Muerte de un ciclista*
  - c. Luis Buñuel, *Viridiana*
  - d. Pedro Almodóvar, *Todo sobre mi madre*

## V. Colonial Spanish American

1. Bartolomé de las Casas, *La Brevisima relación de la destrucción de las Indias*
2. Hernán Cortés, "Segunda carta"
3. Bernal Díaz del Castillo, *Historia verdadera de la Conquista de la Nueva España*
4. Guamán Poma de Ayala (Selección versión digitalizada Biblioteca de Copenhague)
5. Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, *Naufragios*
6. Bernardino de Sahagún, *Códice Florentino*
7. Catalina de Erauso, *Historia de la monja alférez*
8. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (selección) Poesía
9. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (selección), Prosa y teología
10. Selección epistolarios conventuales (s. XVII)
11. Selección escritores indígenas pre-hispánicos, Popol-Vuh, Netzahualcóyotl, otros poetas ed. Miguel León-Portilla
12. Selecciones de los códices: Aubin, Boturini, Borgia, Dresden
13. Alexander Von Humboldt (selección), *Ensayo político sobre el Reino de la Nueva España*
14. Teóricos descoloniales: Walter Mignolo, Enrique Dussel
15. Intelectuales indígenas: Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui y otros (selección)

## VI. Nineteenth-century Spanish American

1. José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi, *Don Catrín de la fachenda*
2. Selección de poesía neoclásica y romántica: Andrés Bello, *Alocución a la poesía, Silva a la agricultura de la zona tórrida*; José Joaquín Olmedo, *La victoria de Junín Canto a Bolívar*; José María Heredia, *Niágara, En una tempestad*; Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, *A Washington, Deseo de Venganza, A él,*

*Contemplación, A la poesía, Las contradicciones, La pesca en el mar, Imitando una oda de Safó; Luisa Pérez de Zambrano, La música, La vuelta al bosque, La melancolía*

3. Domingo Sarmiento, *Civilización y Barbarie* (selección)
4. Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, *Sab, La autobiografía y las cartas de amor*
5. Jorge Isaacs, *María*
6. José Hernández, *Martín Fierro*
7. Esteban Echeverría, *El matadero*
8. Juan León Mera, *Cumandá*
9. Juana Manuela Gorriti, *Cuentos*
10. Ignacio Manuel Altamirano, *El Zarco*
11. Ricardo Palma, *Tradiciones*
12. Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera, *Cuentos frágiles*
13. José Martí, *Nuestra América, Versos sencillos*
14. Rubén Darío, *Azul, Prosas Profanas*
15. José Enrique Rodó, *Ariel*

## **VII. Contemporary Latin American**

### Narrativa:

1. Pedro Cabiya, *Trance*
2. Alejo Carpentier, *El reino de este mundo* or *Los pasos perdidos*
3. Rosario Ferré, *Maldito amor*
4. Rita Indiana, *La mucama de Omicunlé*
5. Mayra Montero, *Tú, la oscuridad*
6. Juan Rulfo, *Pedro Páramo*
7. Carlos Fuentes, *La muerte de Artemio Cruz*
8. Ángeles Mastretta, *Arráncame la vida*
9. Miguel Ángel Asturias, *El señor Presidente*
10. Gabriel García Márquez, *Cien años de soledad*
11. Mario Vargas Llosa, *La casa verde*
12. Manuel Puig, *El beso de la mujer araña*
13. César Aira, *El congreso de literatura*
14. Pablo Katchadjian, *El Martín Fierro ordenado alfabéticamente* y *El aleph engordado*

### Cuento (cada número representa un conjunto de relatos tratados como una "obra"):

15. Julio Cortázar, "Casa tomada", "Continuidad de los parques", "Axolotl", "Cartas de mamá", "Las babas del diablo", "El otro cielo", "Apocalipsis de Solentiname", "Recortes de prensa."
16. Jorge Luis Borges, "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius", "Pierre Menard, autor del Quijote", "Las ruinas circulares", "La Biblioteca de Babel", "El jardín de senderos que se bifurcan", "El sur", "El Aleph", "Emma Zunz."

17. Jorge Luis Borges, "La casa de Asterión"; Julio Cortázar, "Casa tomada," "Carta a una señorita en París"; Rosario Ferré, "La muñeca menor"; Eduardo L. Holmberg, "Horacio Kalibang"; Virgilio Piñera, "El muñeco"; Alejandra Pizarnik, "La condesa sangrienta"; Horacio Quiroga, "El espectro"
18. Clarice Lispector, "Preciosidad," "Misterio en São Cristóvão"; Cristina Peri Rossi, "La influencia de Edgar A. Poe en la poesía de Raimundo Arias"; Luisa Valenzuela, "De noche soy tu caballo"; Elena Garro, "El día que fuimos perros," "El Duende"
19. Reinaldo Arenas, "Termina el desfile"; Juan Bosch, "Luis Pié"; Ana Lydia Vega, "Pasión de historia," "Encancaranublado"; Virgilio Piñera, "La carne," "La caída"; Luis Rafael Sánchez, "Etc."

#### Ensayo/Testimonio/Crítica:

20. Teresa de la Parra, "Influencia de las mujeres en la formación del alma americana"
21. Octavio Paz, *El laberinto de la soledad*
22. Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
23. Néstor García Canclini, *Culturas Híbridas*
24. Beatriz Sarlo, *Escenas de la vida posmoderna*
25. Rigoberta Menchú, *Me llamo Rigoberta Menchú y así me nació la conciencia*
26. Fernando Ortiz, *Contrapunteo cubano del tabaco y el azúcar*, cap. 1
27. Antonio Pedreira, *Insularismo*, cap. II
28. Arcadio Díaz Quiñones, "De cómo y cuándo bregar"
29. Antonio José Ponte, "Caja negra de la fiesta"
30. Antonio Benítez-Rojo, *La isla que se repite*, introducción.

#### Poesía

31. Nicolás Guillén, "Sensemayá," "Mulata"; Nancy Morejón, "Mujer negra"; Pedro Mir, "Al portaaviones Intrépido"; Luis Palés Matos, "Mulata-Antilla," "Majestad negra"; Chiqui Vicioso, "Eva / Sión / es"

#### [Poesía caribeña selecta](#)