



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE

## COLLOQUIUM

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In order to qualify for graduation, all students in the Gallatin undergraduate program must successfully complete a final oral examination called the colloquium. The colloquium is an intellectual conversation among four people—the student, the student’s adviser, and two other members of the faculty—about a selection of books representing several academic disciplines and historical periods. The colloquium provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their Gallatin concentrations and to synthesize various experiences—studying books, taking courses, doing independent study and internships—into an integrated discussion about several books and themes. In preparing for the colloquium, each student creates a booklist of twenty to twenty-five works and writes a brief paper—the rationale—which describes the themes the student plans to discuss in the colloquium. This booklet describes the policies and procedures for the colloquium. Please speak with your adviser about any questions it raises, and be mindful of the deadlines below.

### COLLOQUIUM DEADLINES

In order to graduate on schedule, students must adhere to the deadlines below.

<i>If you are planning to graduate in</i>	<i>The last day to submit your adviser-approved rationale &amp; booklist is</i>	<i>The last day to submit your colloquium registration form is</i>	<i>The last day to take the colloquium is</i>
January 2008	October 1, 2007	November 1, 2007	January 23, 2008
May 2008	November 1, 2007	February 1, 2008	April 11, 2008
September 2008	May 1, 2008	June 2, 2008	September 17, 2008

### PREPARING FOR THE COLLOQUIUM

It is never too early to begin thinking about the colloquium. As you work through the process of defining your concentration, your colloquium topic should start to become clearer. When choosing courses, you should keep in mind the general requirements of the booklist; you will need to select texts representing a variety of disciplines and historical periods. It’s also a good idea to keep a separate notebook with comments on important texts and ideas. If you have an idea of what your colloquium topic will be, you might think of ways to develop that topic in papers for your courses.

During the first semester of the senior year, formal preparations for the colloquium begin: designing the booklist, writing the rationale, and reviewing the books. In preparing for the colloquium, you may find it helpful to think of yourself as a Gallatin teacher designing an interdisciplinary course. Your booklist is like the reading list for the course, and the rationale is like the course description. The faculty committee plays the role of students—and, like all good students, they will ask tough, thought-provoking questions.

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The main focus of the colloquium is a discussion of the works on the student's booklist. This list consists of twenty to twenty-five books, representing several academic disciplines and historical periods, related to the theme or themes described in the rationale. Usually these are books you have read in your courses, but you may also read some of the books on your own. The books should be of high quality—the kind of books you read in your courses—but they do not have to be part of a recognized canon of “great books.” Avoid pop fiction, how-to manuals, self-help books, and textbooks unless you plan to engage critically with these genres.

This booklet provides a list of recommended authors for the colloquium. It is important to note that this list is intended primarily to be suggestive: it may be useful in stimulating your thoughts about possible works, and in helping you place books in appropriate categories. As you put together your list, you should think about the books that have had a significant impact on your thinking, and the books that were important to your classroom work. Most important, you should talk both to your adviser and other members of the faculty about books that may be relevant to the topics you plan to discuss in your colloquium.

## THE BOOKLIST

Booklist forms are available at the Gallatin office and online at the Gallatin website (<http://www.nyu.edu/gallatin/>). The booklist should consist of **twenty to twenty-five** books, arranged according to the following four sections:

### 1. Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Classics

At least **seven** works written before the mid-1600s;

### 2. Modernity—The Humanities

At least **four** works, written after the mid-1600s, in Humanities disciplines such as Literature, Philosophy, History, the Arts, Critical Theory, and Religion;

### 3. Modernity—The Social and Natural Sciences

At least **four** non-fiction works, written after the mid-1600s, in the Natural Sciences and Social Science disciplines such as Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Anthropology, and Sociology.

### 4. Area of Concentration

At least **five** additional works representing the student's area or areas of concentration.

## THE RATIONALE

In addition to the booklist, students are required to submit a three-to-five page rationale (typed and double-spaced) about the topic or topics they plan to discuss in the colloquium. The rationale may focus on a central theme that unifies the entire booklist, or it can discuss several different themes. In describing the main theme or themes you plan to talk about in the colloquium, the rationale should refer to several of the books on the booklist, particularly those that may not be very well known. It can also include a discussion of your intellectual development, area of concentration, internships, independent studies, courses, and extracurricular projects, but the rationale should place primary focus on explaining the topics you want to discuss in the colloquium.

## COLLOQUIUM TITLE

Students may have their colloquium topic printed on their official NYU transcript. The title should accurately reflect the theme of the colloquium and should be no more than 40 characters. The adviser must approve the student's choice of title. Students may also choose not to have the title printed on the transcript, but they will not be able to change their minds later.

## FAQ

### *What kinds of books should I put on my booklist?*

The books should be of high quality—the kinds of books you read in your courses—but they do not have to be part of a recognized canon of great books. Avoid pop fiction, how-to manuals, self-help books, and textbooks unless you plan to engage critically with these forms.

### *Can I change my booklist and rationale once they have been submitted to Gallatin and approved by the second reviewer?*

If you find it necessary to change one or two books on your list, you may do so as long as your revised list still fulfills the minimum number of texts in each required category. Your adviser must approve your changes and you will need to notify your committee and Gallatin about the substitutions. You may also make minor changes to the rationale (again your adviser needs to approve these and you need to notify your committee and Gallatin of the changes), but we discourage students from making more substantial changes that would necessitate another review process and possibly delay graduation.

### *Will the title of colloquium be printed on my diploma, as well as my transcript?*

No, your colloquium title will only appear on your transcript.

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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## REVIEW PROCESS

The rationale and the booklist must be formally approved by your adviser and a member of the Gallatin faculty. The purpose of this review is to ensure the rationale clearly describes the main themes to be discussed in the colloquium, and the reading list has been prepared in accordance with the general requirements described above.

### Adviser Approval

While you should have ongoing discussions with your adviser about your rationale and booklist, these should be submitted to your adviser for formal approval well in advance of the deadline for submission. This allows time for your adviser to suggest changes and, if necessary, for you to revise.

### The Second Review Process

After your adviser-approved rationale and booklist have been submitted, they will be assigned to a Gallatin full-time faculty reviewer. The reviewer will respond to the rationale and booklist in one of three ways. The faculty reviewer may:

- approve the booklist and rationale as is;
- approve the booklist and rationale with minor revisions required. In this case, your adviser will not need to approve these changes, but you must submit the revised rationale and/or booklist to Gallatin at least one month before the date of your colloquium.
- require major revisions. In this case, you should discuss the reviewer's comments with your adviser and revise the rationale and/or booklist accordingly. The revised list and rationale must be re-submitted to your adviser for approval, and then re-submitted to Gallatin. The adviser-approved revision will then be sent back to the reviewer for another review.

In any case, you will be notified about the status of your rationale and booklist in approximately 3-4 weeks.

## SCHEDULING THE COLLOQUIUM

Students may take the colloquium once they have completed 108 credits. In most cases, students do the colloquium during

their final semester of study. Please see the calendar on the front cover for the various deadlines in the colloquium process.

### Selecting Your Committee Members

The colloquium committee consists of your adviser and two other faculty members. At least one member of your committee must be a full-time Gallatin faculty member. If you are having difficulty finding faculty members for your committee, please contact the senior class adviser.

### Setting a Date and Time

After you submit the booklist and rationale, you can proceed with the scheduling process. It is your responsibility to schedule the date and time of your colloquium with committee members. Students should be aware that they may encounter some difficulties in finding committee members or arranging a date for a colloquium in January or September because of the limited availability of faculty during the summer months and winter recess.

### Submitting the Registration Form

Once you have selected your committee members and have scheduled a date and time, you will need to submit this information on the Colloquium Registration form. On this form, you also need to indicate any A/V equipment you may need for your colloquium. The registration form must be submitted by the deadline specified in the scheduling calendar regardless of any pending approval of the rationale and booklist. At least one week prior to your colloquium date, the Office of Academic Advising will send a confirmation to the student and his or her committee members.

If you have already submitted the registration form and you must change a panel member or the date and time of your colloquium, you must submit a new registration form at least two weeks prior to the date of your colloquium, and you must confirm a new date/time with all committee members.

## FAQ

### *When should I take the colloquium?*

Most students take the exam during their final semester, but you may take it earlier, as long as you have completed the minimum of 108 credits. It is best to avoid making plans to take the exam in the semester or summer after you have completed all your course work—it leads to procrastination and it is difficult to organize a committee during the summer.

### *Can I choose which faculty will be on my committee?*

Yes, but your committee must have certain characteristics: it must consist of your adviser; at least one person must be a Gallatin full-time faculty member; and committee members should be appropriate for your colloquium topic. If you need help choosing faculty for your committee, please contact the senior class adviser.

### *Can I change the date and time of my colloquium or a panel member after I have submitted the colloquium registration form to Gallatin?*

Yes, but you must notify the Office of Academic Advising of the change at least two weeks prior to the date of the colloquium, and you must confirm a new date/time with all committee members prior to contacting Gallatin.

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## Matriculation Policy

As a general rule, students must be registered for courses or maintain matriculation during the semester in which they take the colloquium. Please note the following exceptions: students who have completed all of their degree requirements in the spring or summer may take the colloquium in September until the date above without matriculating for the fall term. Similarly, students who have completed all of their degree requirements in the fall term may take the colloquium in January until the date above without matriculating for the spring term.

## FORMAT OF THE COLLOQUIUM

The undergraduate program is individualized, and the colloquium provides one last opportunity for you to explore ways of integrating your academic, professional, and personal odyssey with the ideas and themes in the books that have been significant in your education. The colloquium should therefore be viewed as a valuable experience, and students who are well prepared need not be apprehensive.

Although each colloquium is in some respects unique, all tend to follow the same general format. The colloquium is scheduled for two hours—ninety minutes for the colloquium itself, and up to thirty minutes for the committee members to discuss the student's performance among themselves and with the student.

The colloquium usually begins when the adviser invites the student to discuss his or her earlier schooling, intellectual interests, professional experiences, academic program as a Gallatin student, plans for further education, career goals, and the themes on which the colloquium will focus. As part of this introductory discussion, students may incorporate creative projects into the colloquium by presenting a portfolio

of photographs, showing a brief film or video, playing a piece of music, etc. The main goal of this part of the colloquium is to create an individualized context for the discussion of the books and to establish a framework for integrating the readings with the student's interests and life experiences.

After this introductory presentation, the student and faculty committee proceed to discuss the works on the student's booklist. Students should bring a copy of their rationale and booklist to the colloquium. The general tone of the colloquium is that of an intellectual conversation. Its purpose is not to test the student's rote memory of the details in the texts but rather to evaluate the student's capacity to think, to inquire, to make connections, and to suggest interpretations. Students may be asked to explore the similarities and differences between two or more books, to comment about the historical context of a work, or to discuss the work with respect to the themes described in the rationale.

## EVALUATING THE COLLOQUIUM

At the conclusion of the colloquium, the faculty committee discusses the student's performance. The main criterion for the committee's evaluation is simply this: Was the student able to discuss the books in a thoughtful, insightful way, and to respond intelligently to the questions put forward by the faculty committee?

A pass or fail requires a simple majority vote of the committee. If the committee concludes that the student's performance has been unsatisfactory, the committee will provide suggestions about what the student needs to do to prepare for a second colloquium. A student may not take the exam more than twice. If a student fails a second time, he or she will be dismissed from the school.

## FAQ

### *When should I start getting ready for the colloquium?*

In one sense, you've already begun getting ready—by taking Gallatin courses, by reading about the process, etc. But certainly by the junior year, you should have a plan in place for when you are going to take the key courses (interdisciplinary seminars, independent studies, etc.) to prepare for the exam. During your next-to-last semester before graduation, you should prepare your booklist and rationale for your colloquium.

### *What can my adviser do to help me prepare for the colloquium?*

Your adviser can recommend books for your booklist, discuss some of the books with you to help prepare, and provide assistance in designing the topic and writing the rationale for the colloquium. Your adviser must approve the booklist and the rationale before they are submitted to Gallatin for faculty approval.

### *What kinds of questions will the committee ask me?*

The questions are usually broad and thematic, but you may be asked to clarify your point by providing specific examples.

### *What happens if I fail the colloquium?*

You will have one more opportunity to pass the exam, and your committee will make specific recommendations to help you prepare for the second colloquium.

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BOOKLIST

Your booklist will consist of **twenty to twenty-five books**. In constructing the booklist, your focus will be on the concepts, issues, problems, or topics that unify the list, rather than on simply choosing books to fulfill the distribution requirement. This bibliography of authors is intended primarily as suggestive; you need not limit yourself to these authors.

### I. ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE CLASSICS

<b>Mediterranean and Greek</b> <i>Gilgamesh</i> <i>Book of the Dead</i> Homer Hesiod Sappho Pindar Aeschylus Sophocles Euripides Aristophanes Menander Herodotus Thucydides Plato Xenophon Aristotle Epicurus Demosthenes	Isocrates Theocritus Euclid Longinus Ptolemy Plutarch Plotinus Lucian	Seneca Marcus Aurelius Petronius Juvenal	Rumi Ibn Khaldun	<b>Japan</b> Murasaki Basho Kamo no Chomei Murasaki Shikibu Sei Shonagon <i>The Gossamer Years</i> <i>The Kokinshu</i> <i>The Kojiki</i> Yoshida Kenko	<b>Renaissance</b> Bacon Copernicus Kepler Galileo da Vinci Castiglione Machiavelli Erasmus More Rabelais Montaigne Marlowe Spenser Sidney Shakespeare Cervantes Donne Marvell Milton
	<b>Roman</b> Plautus Terence Catullus Cicero Lucretius Caesar Vergil Horace Ovid Tacitus	<b>Judaic</b> Hebrew Scriptures Talmud Midrash Maimonides	<b>South Asia</b> <i>Upanishads</i> <i>Mahabharata</i> <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> <i>Dhammapada</i> <i>Diamond Sutra</i>		
		<b>Early Christian</b> New Testament Ambrose Augustine Boethius	<b>China</b> Confucius Lao Tzu Chuang Tzu Po Chui-yi Tu Fu Li Bo Wu Cheng-en <i>The I Ching</i> <i>Tales Long Ago</i>	<b>Medieval</b> Beowulf Aquinas Boccaccio Dante Mallory Chaucer Langland Sir Gawain	
		<b>Islamic</b> Qur'an <i>Arabian Nights</i>			

### II. MODERNITY: THE HUMANITIES

(Choose at least **four** works written after the mid-1600s; the following are suggestions)

<b>Literature</b>  <b>LATE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY:</b> Blake Calderon Cao Xueqin Chikamatsu Monzaemon Defoe Diderot Fielding Ihara Saikaku Lope de Vega Matsuo Basho Sterne Swift Yosa Buson	Flaubert Goethe Hardy Hawthorne Higuchi Ichiyo Ibsen James Keats Mallarmé Melville Poe Pushkin Rimbaud Sand Shelley Stendhal Thackeray Tolstoy Turgenev Twain Whitman Wilde Wordsworth Zola	Amado Angelou Bachmann Baldwin Beckett Hugo Borges Brecht Brodsky Calvino Camus Celan Cesaire Coetzee Conde Darwish DeLillo Didion Diop Eliot, T.S. Ellison Enchi Faulkner Fitzgerald Fo Fuentes Garcia Marquez Gordimer	Grass Greene Heaney Hemingway Hesse Hughes Hurston Huxley Joyce Kafka Kane Kawabata Laye Lorca Lu Xun Mahfouz Mann Mda Mishima Mistry Momaday Mori Ogai Morrison Munif Murakami Haruki Nabokov Naipaul Natsume Soseki	Neruda Ngugi O'Connor Oe Orwell Paz Pirandello Plath Proust Rilke Rushdie Saramago Sembene Shaw Silko Solzhenitsyn Soyinka Szyborska Tagore Tanizaki Jun'ichiro Valle Inclan Walcott Wharton White Woolf Wright, R. Yeats Yoshimoto Banana	<b>The Arts</b> Brecht Artaud Grotowski Rosenberg Brook Chaikin Eisenstein Panofsky Wolfflin Vasari Wright Copland Duncan Graham Nochlin Kirstein Humphrey Martin Laban De Mille Noverre Moore Blasis Shawn Schapiro Greenberg Kubler
<b>19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY:</b> Arnold Austen Balzac Baudelaire Brontes Chekhov Dickens Dickinson Dostoyevsky Eliot, G. Futabatei Shimei	<b>20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY:</b> Achebe Aidoo				

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## II. MODERNITY: THE HUMANITIES (CONT.)

<b>Critical Theory</b>	Steiner	Heller	James, W.	Newman	Macaulay
Reynolds	Siegel	Krachauer	Dewey	James, W.	Acton
Coleridge	Lotman	Said	Lovejoy	Kierkegaard	Turner
Arnold	Attali	<b>Philosophy</b>	Spencer	Chesterton	Beard
Ruskin	Fischer	Descartes	Adorno	Tillich	Burke
Pater	Kandinsky	Hobbes	Benjamin	Buber	Kitto
Santayana	Lukacs	Pascal	Wittgenstein	Lewis	Spengler
Hulme, T.E.	Hirsch	Spinoza	Sartre	Niebuhr	Toynbee
Babbitt	Ong	Locke	de Beauvoir	Merton	Mumford
Richards	Iser	Hume	Ayer	Barth	Commager
Bakhtin	Poulet	Diderot	Rawls	Eliade	Braudel
Artaud	Foucault	Voltaire	Fuller	Campbell	Finley
Ransom, J.C.	Croce	Swedenborg	Moore	de Chardin	Moore
Blackmur	Habermas	Kant	Derrida	Wiesel	Harrison
Trilling	Marcuse	Schopenhauer	Ricoeur	Heschel	Hartz
Brooks	Langer	Hegel	Butler	Underhill	Du Bois
Wilson, E.	Burke, K.	Emerson	<b>Religion</b>	Suzuki	Tuchman
Frye	Berger	Nietzsche	Bunyan	Pagels	Gimbutas
Jakobson	Sontag	Bergson	Edwards, J.	<b>History</b>	Eisler
Bachelard	Heilbrun	Heidegger	Mather	Gibbon	Ehrenreich
Barthes	Feher			Tocqueville	Jabarti

## III. MODERNITY: SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES

(Choose at least **four** works written after the mid-1600s; the following are suggestions)

<b>Politics</b>	<b>Economics</b>	Merton	Coles	Kottak	Godel
Hobbes	Smith	Mills	Lifton	Rosaldo	Duhem
Locke	Malthus	Parsons	Laing	Bronowski	Merton, R.
Montesquieu	Ricardo	Becker	Miller	<b>Natural Sciences &amp; Math</b>	Peirce, C.S.
Rousseau	Bentham	Goffman	Horney	Newton	Feyerabend
Paine	Owen	Berger/Luckmann	Gilligan	Curie	Hempel
<i>Federalist Papers</i>	Marx	Park	<b>Anthropology</b>	Leibniz	Keller, E.F.
Crevecoeur	Menger	Bourdieu	Frazier	Harvey	Abbott
Wollstonecraft	Bohm-Bawerk	Harvey	Boas	Darwin	Meitner
Hegel	Keynes	Giddens	Radcliffe-Brown	Mendel	Planck
Marx	Schumpeter	Riesman	Radin	Comte	Einstein
Thoreau	Von Mises	Roszak	Benedict	Lyell	Feynman
Mill	Hayek	Harrington	Mead	Wallace	Heisenberg
Godwin	Myrdal	Bell	Bateson	Bernard	Eiseley
Martineau	Robinson	Lasch	Geertz	Carnot	Kuhn
Gramsci	Galbraith	<b>Psychology</b>	Levi-Strauss	Franklin	Popper
Gilman, C.	Friedman	James, W.	Hymes	Hume	Poincare
Arendt	Gilman	Freud, S.	Lee	Huxley	Snow
Burnham	Schumacher	Freud, A.	Redfield	La Mettrie	Muir
Strauss	<b>Sociology</b>	Jung	Douglas	Lavoisier	Leopold
Hook	Spencer	Adler	Bateson, M. C.	Maxwell	Carson
Goldman	Engels	Marcuse	Diamond	Humboldt	Lovelock
Barnet	Veblen	Mead, G. H.	Cliffords	Helmholtz	Hawking
Kolko	Simmel	Piaget	Turner	Schelling	Gould
Chomsky	Mannheim	Skinner	Wolf	Virchow	
Ghandi	Weber	Vygotsky	McCormack	Bohr	
Nehru	Fromm	Erikson	Stack	Whitehead	
King	Martineau				
Malcolm X					

## IV. AREA OF CONCENTRATION

(Choose at least **five** additional works in your area of concentration.)