

Professor Lucas QE Procedure as of October 2015

The Deal: Any student who passes Professor Lucas' closed book, closed note written exam has passed as far as Professor Lucas is concerned, and Professor Lucas will serve at their oral exam to confirm that. To aid QE performance, the student should prepare and deliver to Professor Lucas an undergraduate syllabus for the area one week before the oral QE.

Areas: Professor Lucas has offered written exams in Social Stratification and in Sociology of Education, and is also willing to examine students in Methods.

Exam Details: An exam totals six hours—three hours for Part I, and three hours for Part II. The exam may take one day or two consecutive days, as the professor's schedule permits.

Helpful Resources: Past exams are posted on Professor Lucas' web-site under "Previous Prelim Exams." If no past exam in a field exists, Professor Lucas provides a practice exam for the student(s) taking the exam for the first time.

Non-Native English Speakers: Students whose native language is not English may submit a translation dictionary one week before the exam which will be returned to them for use during the exam, and may have 3.5 hours for Part I, and 3.5 hours for Part II. Failure to make such arrangements before the exam will not be considered in grading the exam.

Frequency: Exams are offered in August/September, December/January, and April/May **ONLY**. To register for a *first* exam e-mail the professor your interest by May 1 for an Aug/Sept exam, by Sept 1 for the Dec/Jan exam, and by Jan 1 for the Apr/May exam (though one can "back out" afterwards). To register for a second exam see Professor Lucas after the first exam is graded. **PLEASE NOTE:** Students are **STRONGLY** advised to plan ahead and avoid requiring orals in the same 2-month period as the written. A written area exam is offered only once per period.

Crude Statistics on Performance: Students have failed the written exam in the past. A student who fails an exam may take it again later. Some have re-taken the exam, others have not. Passage rates on second exam are high.

Reading List: There is no list of readings—Professor Lucas regards areas of research as defined by questions, not by readings. Two observations need be made. First, students are not in the complete dark about some readings that might be useful. Departmental course syllabi for a field serve as *de facto* starting points. Someone who ignored those syllabi would be at great risk of failing the exam because 280s are designed to cover an area broadly, but perhaps not as deeply as one might like. Second, because there is no canonical reading list, there is no battle between professor and student about what will and will not be read. Instead, Professor Lucas encourages students to read what they want. Students just need to be able to address the questions, and past exams coupled with course syllabi suggest key questions that form a field. If a student links readings that are not on departmental syllabi to the questions in an enlightening and (self-)critical way, so much the better.