

Some General Guidelines for the Oral Exams (Mastermodulprüfungen, M.Ed.)

1) The obligatory texts are absolutely key. Read the texts in the reading package (or additional obligatory texts provided on PANDA). Read these very carefully. These texts provide the foundation for our conversation in the oral exam. If there was visual material (films, photographs, works of art), look at the material again.

2) Talk about ideas – get away from plot. In the exam nobody will ask you to outline the plot of a literary work or simply describe a scholarly text. It's about key ideas and concepts expressed in these texts. Take this as your guiding question: How does the material illuminate the more general ideas that shaped our class?

3) Recall our discussions in class. What did we focus on? What were the key points that we raised again and again over the course of the semester? Take a good look at your notes.

4) Consider your own contributions to class. How did you contribute – as an expert, as the author of essays, a reading journal? How did your contributions relate to the key ideas we discussed?

5) Keep in mind that we will only have 12-13 minutes for this conversation. It's going to be very helpful to use precise terminology and a keen sense of what was important.

These are general guidelines for all my courses. Consider detailed information for each specific class.

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