

## **Foreign Language Reading Exam for Spanish Graduate Students**

The purpose of the exam is to determine if the student can get the main ideas, with a reasonable degree of accuracy, from a piece of critical literature on his or her subject in a reasonable period of time, about 2 hours (give or take a few minutes).

The examiner may be a faculty member of the Spanish department who is fluent in the language (e.g. French) or a faculty member of the foreign language department in question (e.g. French department faculty).

To this end, the student brings the examiner two books of his/her choosing for approval, with the understanding that the exam itself will consist of material taken from these approved sources. Once the books are approved, the student contacts the graduate program staff to arrange an exam time and room. Books should be returned to the student for final review after they have been approved. On the day of the scheduled exam, the staff will hand the student the translation exam, as well as provide a computer on which to type exam responses. A dictionary may be used, but must be supplied by the student.

The exam is made up of two sections:

- 1) 10-15 lines for idiomatic translation into English or Spanish
- 2) A section, chapter, or article for summarizing (not paraphrasing\*) the main ideas only

\*By this we mean, not a line by line paraphrase, but a discriminating summary of the main ideas only, showing the student's ability to filter out the real point of the article or passage.

Please note that the translation should read well in English or Spanish. If it doesn't make sense in the target language, it is not a good translation of the original.