

## **Guideline for Qualifying Exam in METU Social Psychology PhD Program**

### **Qualifying Exam Paper**

For the qualifying exam, you are expected to write a review article on a topic of your choice. A review article evaluates and analyzes existing theoretical and/or empirical debates in the literature. Jordan and Zanna (2004) describe a review article as “an evaluative survey of previously published work, usually organized by a guiding theory or point of view. The author of a review article summarizes previous investigation of a circumscribed problem, comments on what progress has been made toward its resolution, and suggests areas of the problem that require further study.”

There is no certain way to write a review paper. You can find examples of review articles with different structures in journals such as Psychological Bulletin, Personality and Social Psychology Review, Psychological Review etc.

You are encouraged to propose a new idea or a model based on your review, however, this is not a requirement. Regardless, the paper should be completed independently and reflect your own thinking, critiques, insights, or perspective on the topic. The length of the paper is limited to 35 pages in APA format.

The oral exam generally will be held within the first week of December or June (it may change depending on the official METU deadline). The student has to submit the paper at least 10 days in advance of the oral defense. There will be no exceptions, as being able to work independently while meeting deadlines is an important aspect of becoming a PhD candidate.

### **Plagiarism**

The student will submit the manuscript via a software program (e.g., Turnitin). The overlap has to be less than % 30 (excluding bibliography and quotations). Each overlap will be investigated by the members of the committee. Any kind of plagiarism would result in a failure from the exam and further dire consequences.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The exam will be evaluated on 4 different criteria.

#### **1. Writing Mechanics and Format**

- The manuscript should follow the latest APA format.
- Clear and grammatically correct sentences, proper use of punctuation, lack of typing mistakes

#### **2. Literature Review and Comprehension**

- Comprehensive review of the literature
- Up to date review of the literature
- Clarity in focus, clear presentation of shortcomings and gaps in the literature
- Demonstration of in-depth understanding of the subject
- No redundant and irrelevant literature

### **3. Creativity / Analysis Quality**

- Coherency throughout the paper
- Logical presentation of arguments, with support from the literature
- Degree of elaboration
- Uniqueness of the proposed model (if proposed) / Originality of the analysis
- Consistency

### **4. Oral Exam:**

- The committee will consist of 5 faculty members; three from within the Psychology Department and two from outside the university.
- During the oral exam the candidate will briefly summarize the review paper (no more than 10 minutes) and then answer the questions directed by the committee members.
- The questions may be directly related to the Q.E. paper or social psychology in general.
- The candidate needs to demonstrate an understanding of social psychological topics, and critical /academic thinking skills.
- At the end of the oral exam, the committee will evaluate the candidate's written and oral performance. The candidate may either pass or fail the qualifying exam depending on this evaluation. Please note that there is no "conditional pass" for the qualifying exam; if some rewrite is deemed necessary than the student must receive a fail grade.