

## THE COMPARATIVE RESEARCH PAPER

The procedures for the CRP involve:

- a) a brief (around 2 pages) written proposal to distribute to a potential Chair and committee members
- b) the formation of a committee with a faculty member (with regular graduate faculty status or ad hoc appointment) affiliated with Latin American & Caribbean Studies and at least 2 other committee members from different departments, 1 of whom must be an affiliated Latin American faculty
- c) input from the committee in refining the student's research topic and bibliography,
- d) the writing of a CRP
- e) passing an oral exam given by the committee (see details below). Students should take 3 credits of Thesis/CRP (LAA 899) with their Chair

Only 3 credits of LAA 899 can count towards the CRP MA degree. If the Chair does not have an enrollment line for LAA 899, it can be acquired from the Administrative Associate at CLACS, Amanda Porter, ([amandahporter@ku.edu](mailto:amandahporter@ku.edu)) in the Latin American & Caribbean Studies office.

After selecting a committee, the student must submit the members' names to the Director of Graduate Studies. The research topic must consist of an interdisciplinary analysis of a broad issue that goes beyond the student's coursework and involves more than one country for purposes of comparison. The format for the CRP consists of

- a) a 6-8 page bibliography
- b) an annotated bibliography of at least 10 books
- c) a 30-page interdisciplinary analysis of the issue

The Chair must approve the final draft, and then it must be distributed to the committee at least 3 weeks before the oral exam. The Director of Graduate Studies must also be notified of the date and project title 3 weeks before the exam.

The oral exam entails questions posed by the committee members to evaluate the student's expertise on the research topic, overall knowledge, and ability to formulate judgments independently. Usually the exams last about 1½-2 hours. An oral exam should not be scheduled until at least three months have elapsed since the formation of the committee and at least three weeks after the student has requested a date, time, and place of the exam with the graduate academic advisor.

The deadlines for completion of the thesis/CRP for graduation usually fall around December 15, May 1, and August 1 each year. One final copy of the revised CRP must be left with Latin American & Caribbean Studies.