

LAS graduate students can do either a thesis or Comparative Research Paper (CRP) Masters Degree. All graduate students should consult with the Graduate Advisor and pick up thesis or CRP guidelines in the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies **before** they form a committee.

THE COMPARATIVE RESEARCH PAPER

The procedures for the CRP involve a) a brief (~2pp) **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, and 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 a line number for LAA 899, it can be acquired from the Administrative Associate at CLACS, Chad O'Bryhim, (chadobryhim@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, and **c)** a 30-page interdisciplinary analysis of the issue. The Chair must approve of the defensibility of 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 Chad O'Bryhim. 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.

THE THESIS

The procedures for the thesis involve a) a brief (~2pp) **written proposal** to distribute to a potential Chair and committee members, b) the formation of a committee with a Chair affiliated with Latin American & Caribbean Studies and at least 2 other committee members from different disciplines, 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 the thesis, and e) passing an **oral defense oral exam** given by the committee (see details below).

Students must take at least **3 credits of Thesis/CRP (LAA 899)**, 6 of which can be applied to the MA, in which the committee Chair oversees their work. If the Chair does not have a line number for LAA 899, it can be acquired from Chad O'Bryhim, (chadobryhim@ku.edu) in the Latin American & Caribbean Studies office. The research topic must consist of an *analysis of a*

specific issue that goes beyond the student's coursework. The thesis should be an *original work of publication quality*, not merely a long research report. *The thesis must be of an appropriate quality to represent graduate work at KU and the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies.* The text should be at least 80-100 pages in length, and formatting regulations are available in the College Graduate Division (300 Strong). Students must have their final **draft** passed by their Chair and distributed to their committee, at least 3 weeks before the oral defense. The Director of Graduate Studies must also be notified of the date, the committee members, and the project title 3 weeks before the exam in order to schedule it. The **oral defense** entails questions posed by the committee members that enable evaluation of the student's expertise on the research topic and ability to formulate judgments independently. The student defends the research problem, methodology, presentation of evidence, and argument. Usually the defense lasts 1-2 hrs. The committee assigns either an Honors, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory for the thesis, and it can suggest revisions. Once the qualification has been given and the **final formatted copy** is signed by the committee, the student has passed. The deadlines for submission of the final formatted copy usually fall around December 15, May 1, and August 1. One copy of the revised thesis must be left with Latin American & Caribbean Studies and will become part of the permanent archive of the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies and the KU Libraries.