

## Sociocultural Field Statement Guidelines

All sociocultural graduate students in Phase II must write one or two field statements, depending on what your Ph.D. supervisory committee requires. This constitutes the written (comprehensive) portion of the doctoral examination necessary for advancement to Ph.D. candidacy. Students are strongly urged to take an ASB 790 Reading and Conference (3 credit hours each) during their second year in Phase II for each field statement. The field statement(s) must be completed and approved by the student's Ph.D. supervisory committee prior to the defense of the dissertation proposal, which constitutes the oral portion of the doctoral examination.

The content of the student's field statement(s) is determined in consultation with his/her advisor and Ph.D. committee and serves as preparation for the future dissertation project. Students should initially prepare a 1-2 page summary of each field statement with a preliminary bibliography. The field statements are designed to provide students with breadth of knowledge of particular subfields or geographical areas of study before they write their dissertations (which focus in-depth on a more specific topic). Therefore, field statements should be relatively broad in scope and coverage and not focus narrowly on one topic/issue or on one country/group of people.

Field statements should be about 30 pages each (double spaced, excluding bibliography) and written as a bibliographic literature review (see the review essays in the *Annual Review of Anthropology* for useful models). Relevant literature should be organized under certain topics/issues/schools of thought with subheadings. Good field statements will not just summarize masses of literature, but will analyze/critique the readings, demonstrating both the student's intellectual grasp of and ability to synthesize the materials. They will also provide some sense of the student's own emerging theoretical/conceptual perspective on the topic.

Although field statements should be extensive and demonstrate that students are intellectually qualified to proceed with the dissertation, students should not go overboard and try to read all of the available literature nor try to write a huge magnum opus. Field statements are simply transitional documents, which can be eventually used as part of the dissertation's (or dissertation proposal's) literature review. Students should be selective in what they read and should not write much more than 30 pages.