

# INR Comprehensive Exam FAQ's

## Planning for the exam:

- What does “areas of study” mean? *“Areas of study” are taken from the comprehensive reading list that is available on the website or can be provided by the office of graduate studies. Students choose their area of study no later than two weeks prior to the exam. Examples of two areas of study are Russia and South Asia.*
- How many questions will there be? *You are asked to select and answer 2 of the 3 questions on each topic (area of study). You will answer questions for first topic on day one, the other on day 2.*
- Am I allowed to use any resources during the exam? *No. This is a closed book exam. Use of notes, texts or the computer is prohibited. You may use a scratch pad to outline your thoughts before you start typing.*
- Is there an expected dress code for virtual proctoring of the exam? *Students should be in casual classroom attire for the exam.*
- How much time are we given each day? I am not a typist, so time concerns me. *You will have 4 hours each day. It should not take the entire time to answer and type your questions.*
- Is there an expected format for our response? *The format is the same as that required for assignments and final exams. Any essay should have a thesis, a supporting analysis, and a conclusion.*
- What technology is needed for the exam? *Ensure that you have stable wi-fi and web camera capabilities. Your exam will not count if you are not visible for the duration of the exam and will count as a failed one, which means that there will only be another chance to take it again.*

## During the Exam

- Are we to cite references as we did with other papers during the course work? *Since it is a closed book exam, no citation is necessary, but you are welcome to reference sources from memory if you like, without specifics.*
- What is an appropriate length for a good response? *No page length is expected, but the answer should be a well-constructed essay. The length is appropriate when you feel you have fully answered the question.*
- May I take a break during the exam? *Brief breaks to use the restroom, get refreshments or to stretch will be permitted, but should not be excessive.*
- What if I have questions or technical difficulties during the exam? *So as not to disturb the other students, communication to the proctor should take place either through the chat box or by calling the Graduate Studies Office phone at 401-341-2338.*
- How do I submit my responses? *You will type your answer into a word document and upload the document into Canvas for the appropriate assignment as you do with final exams.*

## Following the Exam

- How are questions assessed? *The handbook explains the grading policy.*
- When will I be notified of results? *Within two weeks.*
- Am I charged a fee for the Comprehensive exam? *No.*
- What happens if I do not pass the exam? *Each student is allowed two attempts at the comprehensive exam. Logging in to the assignment in Canvas will count as an attempt, even if nothing is submitted.*