From the website:
The purpose of the M.A. comprehensive examination is to enable the student to develop a synthesized understanding of issues and problems in the area of religion and culture. The examination consists of two parts administered on separate days, the first dealing with foundational questions in the study of religion and the Catholic tradition, and the second addressing more specialized topics in the field of religion and culture. [...] The M.A. comprehensive examination is normally taken in the final semester of coursework, on dates designated in that semester's academic calendar.

Students are responsible for all of the items listed under Day One. For Day Two, the student will consult with the academic area director in selecting three areas for which to prepare.

I. DAY ONE:

I.A. The Catholic Theological Tradition

Boadt, Lawrence. Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction.
Dulles, Avery. Models of Revelation.
Fiorenza, Francis Schüssler, and John P. Galvin, ed. Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives. 2 vols.
Flannery, Austin., ed. The Documents of Vatican II.
Pinckaers, Servais. Sources of Christian Ethics.

I.B. Religion and Culture Foundational Issues

Berger, Peter. The Sacred Canopy.
Durkheim, Emile. The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life.
Eliade, Mircea. The Sacred and the Profane.
Freud, Sigmund. The Future of an Illusion.
Geertz, Clifford. “Religion as a Cultural System,” in The Interpretation of Cultures.
Hume, David. The Natural History of Religion.
Lawrence, Bruce B. Defenders of God: The Fundamentalist Revolt Against the Modern Age. (1995 ed.)
Pals, Daniel L. Eight Theories of Religion, 2nd. ed.
II. DAY TWO:

Instructions: Pick three areas for examination. Let the director of the Religion and Culture area know which areas you wish to be examined in well ahead of your examination date.

II.A. Sociology and Religion

Berger, Peter. The Sacred Canopy.
Casanova, Jose, Public Religion in the Modern World.
Durkheim, Emile. The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life.
Lawrence, Bruce B. Defenders of God: The Fundamentalist Revolt Against the Modern Age. (1995 ed.)
Preus, J. Samuel. Explaining Religion: Critical Theory from Bodin to Freud. (chapters on Comte and Durkheim)

II.B. Anthropology and Religion

Douglas, Mary. Purity and Danger.
Lambek, Michael, ed. A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion. (chapters 1-8, 10, 24, 25, 34)
Preus, J. Samuel. Explaining Religion: Critical Theory from Bodin to Freud. (chapter on Tylor)
Rappaport, Roy A. Pigs for the Ancestors : Ritual in the Ecology of a New Guinea People.
II.C. Psychology and Religion


Fowler, James. *Stages of Faith.*


Jung, Carl G. *Psychology and Religion.*

James, William. *Varieties of Religious Experience.*


II.D. Phenomenology of Religion


Eliade, Mircea. *Patterns in Comparative Religion.*

Eliade, Mircea. *The Sacred and the Profane.*

Orsi, Robert. *Between Heaven and Earth.*


II.E. Ritual Studies

Bell, Catherine. *Ritual Perspectives and Dimensions.* (Chapter 4, p. 93-137).


Smith, Jonathan Z. *To Take Place : Toward Theory in Ritual.*

Van Gennep, Arnold. The Rites of Passage.

II.F. Hermeneutics

Jasper, David. A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics.
Lindbeck, George A. The Nature of Doctrine: Religion and Theology in a Postliberal Age.
Mueller-Vollmer, Kurt, ed. The Hermeneutics Reader. (readings from Bultmann and Habermas).
Pontifical Biblical Commission. The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church.
Ricoeur, Paul. Interpretation Theory: Discourse and the Surplus of Meaning.

II.G. Women’s Studies and Religion

Clifford, Anne M. Introducing Feminist Theology.
Christ, Carol. WomanSpirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion.
Ruether, Rosemary, ed. Religion and Sexism: Images of Woman in the Jewish and Christian Traditions
Ruether, Rosemary. Gaia and God: An EcofeministTheology of Earth Healing
II.H. Latino/Hispanic Religion

De La Torre, Miguel A. and Edwin David Aponte. *Introducing Latino/Latina Theologies.*
Goizueta, Roberto. *Caminemos con Jesús: Toward a Hispanic/Latino Theology of Accompaniment.*
Gutierrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation.*

II.I. Religious Diversity and Interreligious Dialogue

Jones, Charles B. *The View From Mars Hill: Christianity in the Landscape of World Religions.*
Panikkar, Raimon. *The Intrapluralistic Dialogue.*
Race, Alan. *Christians and Religious Pluralism.*
Wuthnow, Robert. *America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity.*

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*Note: If a student’s plan of study for the Master’s degree incorporates areas not listed above, that student may, with the advice and permission of the Religion and Culture area director, compile a list of readings for one of the days of examination.*