G. READING PERIOD AND FINAL
EXAMINATION PERIOD

1. Due dates for course work It is expected that instructors will require all course
assignments, other than term papers and term projects, to be submitted at the latest
by the last day of reading period. Term papers and term projects are to be submitted
at the latest by the last day of the final examination period. For the dates of the
reading period and final examination period, consult the Yale College Calendar with
Pertinent Deadlines. Instructors do not have the authority to give permission for
these deadlines to be extended; only the residential college dean has this authority.
See section H, Completion of Course Work, “Work Incomplete at the End of
Term.” Even if an extended deadline should be announced by the instructor, a grade
reflecting work submitted after the end of the term cannot be accepted unless a
Temporary Incomplete was authorized by the student’s residential college dean.

2. Reading period The Yale College Faculty established the reading period between
the end of classes and the beginning of final examinations in order to provide a
period of about a week during which students might conclude their course work
and prepare for final examinations. The instructor of each course determines
whether or not that course observes the reading period. A course that does not
observe the reading period is identified in the course listings by the abbreviation
“RP” at the end of the course description or by a phrase such as “Meets RP” or
“Meets during reading period.”

The assumption underlying the faculty’s institution of the reading period was
that no additional assignments would be required during the reading period in a
course observing it, but that students would use the reading period in their own
way to consolidate and augment the work of the course. Such being the case,
no final examination may be administered during the reading period. A final
examination in a course, whether or not the course observes the reading period,
must be administered during the final examination period. No take-home final
examination may be due during the reading period. An instructor may, however, set
the due date for a term paper or project during the reading period.

3. Final examinations Yale College expects every course to conclude with a regular
final examination or with a substitute for such an examination. The substitute
should be in the nature of a final examination in that it requires the student
to demonstrate proficiency in the discipline and subject matter of the course.
Substitutes may include, for example, an oral presentation or examination, a term
essay, or the last of a series of hour tests administered during the last week of
classes. Final examinations normally last either two or three hours but, in either
case, students are permitted to take an additional half-hour before being required to
turn in their answers. This additional time is given for improving what has already
been written, rather than for breaking new ground.

4. Scheduling of final examinations The University Registrar’s Office has assigned a
specific time and date for the administration of final examinations in most courses
in Yale College. The time of the final examination is determined by the meeting
time of a course during the term. If the meeting time of a course is changed from
that originally published, the time of the examination is defined by the new meeting
time. If a course is published with no scheduled examination but the instructor
subsequently decides to offer a final examination, it must be administered at the
time defined by the meeting time of the course. The schedule of final examinations
may be found in General Information under the heading Final Examination
Schedules.

5. **Date of administering final examinations** Since the final examination schedule has
been carefully designed to make efficient use of the entire final examination period
and to minimize overcrowding of students’ schedules, a final examination must be
administered on the date and at the time specified. On occasion instructors have
administered final examinations at times different from those assigned. Such an
arrangement is allowed under the following conditions: (a) that two different and
distinct final examinations be administered; (b) that one of these examinations be
administered at the regularly specified time within the final examination period; (c)
that the alternative examination be administered at a regular examination starting
time during the final examination period; and (d) that no student be required to
obtain permission to take the alternative examination.

6. **Take-home final examinations** Take-home final examinations are sometimes
substituted for regular final examinations. If a course has been assigned a final
examination date, a take-home examination for that course is due on the scheduled
examination day. If a course has not been assigned a final examination date, a
take-home examination for the course is due on the day specified in the final
examination schedule by the meeting time of the course. See Final Examination
Schedules. If a course does not meet at a time covered by the final examination
schedule, a take-home examination may not be due during the first three days of
the final examination period. No take-home examination may be due during the
reading period.

7. **Due dates for term grades** An instructor is required to submit term grades
promptly after the completion of a course. For due dates, consult the Yale College
Calendar with Pertinent Deadlines.

In submitting term grades, the instructor is expected to apply appropriate penalties
for missed or incomplete work unless the late submission of the work has been
authorized by the student’s residential college dean or by the Committee on Honors
and Academic Standing. If an instructor reports a mark of Incomplete for which
there has been no authorization by the college dean, the Incomplete will be recorded
by the University Registrar’s Office as a grade of F.

8. **An hour test at the end of term instead of a final examination** Some instructors do
not give final examinations of the usual two-and-one-half-hour or three-and-one-
half-hour length, but instead terminate their courses with an hour test that is the
last in a succession of hour tests administered during the term.

For courses that do not observe the reading period, this hour test may be
administered during the reading period, since, in such courses, regular class
meetings are scheduled to extend through the reading period. A course that does
not observe the reading period may also administer the hour test during the final
examination period at the time specified in the final examination schedule.
For courses that do observe the reading period, the hour test may not be administered during the reading period, but may be administered only during the last week of classes or during the final examination period at the time specified in the final examination schedule.

9. **Senior departmental examinations** In those major programs requiring a senior departmental examination, that examination is scheduled on the two weekdays preceding the final examination period in the fall and spring terms. In a department or program in which a two-day written senior departmental examination is administered on those days, seniors may, with the written consent of the appropriate instructors, be excused from final examinations in as many as two courses in the major in the term in which they take the departmental examination. In a department or program in which the senior departmental examination takes place on only one of the two scheduled days, a senior may, with the written consent of the instructor, be excused from the final examination in one course in the major in the term in which the departmental examination is taken. If the senior departmental examination takes place before the scheduled days, or if a senior essay or senior project takes the place of the examination, a student may not omit a final examination.