

Grading guide for FIL4090 - Masters thesis in Philosophy

The Masters thesis must be a stand-alone piece of work where the student analyses and answers a philosophical problem. In answering this problem, the student will usually develop a position/standpoint.

Relevant evaluation criteria will therefore focus on how far the thesis:

- sets out the scope of the relevant philosophical area
- provides an effective explanation of the problem
- identifies, interprets and critically engages with relevant research in the area
- analyses and argues for a specific philosophical viewpoint
- shows familiarity with the methodological and theoretical perspectives that are relevant for the work

C

C is given for consistently good and independent academic work, well grounded in the most relevant literature for the topic, together with satisfactory analysis, argumentation and format.

- Problem statement: clearly formulated and thoroughly grounded in the literature; clear connection between literature review, problem statement and discussion
- Theory and topic specific literature: shows knowledge of relevant literature, includes a reasonable breadth of work; recognises and applies key theoretical concepts
- Analysis: shows a reasonable degree of independence of thought and capability for reflection on the topic
- Structure and format: the task is built up so that there is a satisfactory argumentative connection between the problem statement, analysis and conclusion
- Use of language: satisfactory
- Referencing: without obvious errors

A

A is given for unusually good work. It is awarded for an outstanding academic thesis that is characterised by its independence in the use of sources, analysis and argumentation. An A-grade thesis should be strong on almost all points, but may have minor mistakes where these do not undermine the overall quality of the thesis.



- Problem statement: shows independence and clarity of thought, with demonstrable relevance to the subject area; very well grounded in the relevant literature. The thesis shows a clear understanding of relevant theory
- Theory and subject specific literature: makes active use of theory to the degree that this is relevant for the topic; clear, critical and independent exposition of the literature
- Analysis: shows clear independence, critical engagement and extremely good reflection on the thesis problem
- Structure and format: the thesis is constructed in such a way that there is a strong argumentative link between the thesis statement, analysis and conclusion
- Use of language: very good and without significant mistakes or omissions
- Referencing: without obvious mistakes; shows evidence of broad reading

B

B is given to work that is above average, and which shows sound mastery of the topic, as well as good critical skills and independence in the analysis of the material

- Problem statement: clearly formulated and well grounded in the literature; to the degree to which is necessary for the topic, the work shows good insight into relevant theory
- Theory and topic specific literature: shows broad familiarity with the relevant literature, displays independence in the presentation of the arguments and insight into the relevant theory to the degree that this is necessary for the topic
- Analysis: competent and thoughtful account of the arguments and challenges related to topic
- Structure and format: the thesis is constructed so that there is a good argumentative link between the thesis problem, the analysis and conclusion
- Language: good and without significant errors
- Referencing: no obvious errors

D

D is given to theses that have significant flaws or omissions.

Such theses will have evident weaknesses, but at the same time may fulfil some of the required criteria for the formulation of the problem statement, relevant use of theory and literature, and evidence of analytical capability and reflection on methodology. Other criteria are structure and format, use of language, ability to provide relevant and appropriately formatted references.

E

E is given to theses that do not satisfy more than one of the minimum requirements for a Masters Thesis. Such a thesis will have obvious weaknesses in most, but not necessarily all of the essential criteria:

- Problem statement
- Theory and literature
- Analysis
- Methodology

Other criteria

- Structure and format
- Language competency
- Referencing

F

F is given to theses where the minimum requirements are not fulfilled and where the general performance is unsatisfactory. Such a thesis will be weak in all of the criteria or unsatisfactory with regard to the key areas.