

EXAMINER GUIDE ANTH 4090 – MASTER THESIS

About the course and the thesis:

The master's thesis is an independent scientific product to be submitted for the final assessment of the master's degree program at the Department of Social Anthropology. The thesis is produced during the second half of semester 3 and semester 4 of the study programme. There is no teaching offered in this course, but students receive a defined number of sessions/hours of individual supervision.

The scope of the master's thesis is 35,000 words (+/- 10 percent) including footnotes (references and appendices are in addition). Front page, summary and preface are also included. A master's thesis that exceeds this limit is rejected.

Learning outcomes and assessment:

Upon completion of the course, the candidate is expected to have acquired the knowledge, skills and general competencies listed below. These are the overall learning outcomes against which the thesis is to be assessed:

Knowledge

- Deep understanding of the anthropological research process
- Experience-based knowledge
- You will learn how your own data, collected during fieldwork, can be connected to analytical issues within social anthropological theory, and can be put in a comparative perspective.
- You will be able to apply and reflect on key methodological and theoretical tools that allow you to analyze different types of data

Skills

- To complete and present an independent scientific work in an ethically sound manner
- Integration of your own research with the standards of scientific and analytical thought – i.e. you will be able to present your thesis results in a way that meets scientific criteria
- Analyze, disseminate and present social and cultural phenomena in solid written form
- You will learn how to find and put into context relevant literature
- Through the work on your thesis, you will acquire dissemination skills

General competence

- Learn to respect scientific values, such as openness, rationality and precision and will learn to distinguish between research-based knowledge, the importance of analytical model choices, practice-based knowledge and "perception"
- Gain ethical awareness concerning the various problems that may arise during research and the writing up of research results
- Learn how to adhere to the principles of academic honesty, integrity, and responsibility when it comes to your research and to other professional work

In line with these learning outcomes, a good thesis will first and foremost successfully integrate ethnographic data – whether from own fieldwork or secondary sources – and anthropological theory in an independent and reflexive manner. This presupposes clear and concise research question(s); an operationalization of these in a methodologically and ethically sound manner; and an engagement with anthropological theory in the treatment of the ethnographic material, demonstrated in solid written form. It is a plus if the thesis in addition makes an effort to relate arguments and findings to broader anthropological fields of discussion.

Because of the pandemic, students may have been partially or wholly prevented from carrying out fieldwork and producing original data. This must be taken into consideration when assessing the thesis.

Oral examination

The thesis is to be defended at an oral examination. The performance at the oral exam can be used to adjust the grade of the master's thesis. The final grade can differ no more than one grade from the preliminary grade.