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*This is the study programme for 2017/2018. It is subject to change.*

The master's dissertation is a piece of work that is based on individual research and is presented in a form that accords with academic conventions in relation to referencing, style, register, and so forth. It discusses a topic that has been approved by a supervisor and is written under supervision. In addition to regular meetings with their supervisor, the students attend regular seminars.

### **FACTS**

**Course code:** MLIMAS\_1

**Credits (ECTS) :** 60

**Semester tuition start:**

Autumn

**Duration:** 2

**Exam semester:** Spring

**Language of instruction:**

English

**Offered by:** Faculty of Arts and Education, Department of Cultural Studies and Languages

### **Learning outcome**

Knowledge

The student will gain:

- An understanding of the main theoretical issues relevant for the field of research of her/his Master's thesis
- Knowledge of the central literature and issues of debate within the field of research
- An understanding of basic research ethics, including plagiarism and copyright issues as well as research involving living human participants

Skills

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Apply their knowledge to independent research work
- Apply a range of practical and methodological skills required for their research work
- Account for the theories and methods current within their field of research and explain their own choice of theoretical framework and methodology
- Develop a line of argument based on their own findings
- Present their findings as an academic thesis, following accepted conventions
- Deliver a lecture based on their reading and findings within the field of research of their Master's dissertation

### **General competence**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Make a realistic and structured project plan
- Work independently on a long-term project
- Communicate their findings clearly and efficiently both in speech and writing
- Present and discuss their work in good academic English

## Contents

The students produce an academic thesis based on their own research. In addition to independent work on the dissertation, the course includes a research seminar and supervision meetings, both with obligatory attendance. The students are required to submit a research proposal, regular written work to the supervisor and (together with the dissertation an individual reading list. The students will also deliver a test lecture on a given topic, based on the individual reading list, before receiving their mark.

The dissertation is a piece of academic written work, based on individual research, on a topic that has been agreed upon by the student and the supervisor. The topic should normally relate to one of the areas studied in the taught part of the course. With one of the taught modules as a starting point, the dissertation may build upon perspectives from several areas, such as linguistics, literature, didactics, history or media studies.

The dissertation should consist of 85-115 pages (12-point Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing), not including appendices and large tables. It should follow accepted academic conventions. The topic should be clearly delimited, and the principal objectives and source materials should be defined. The methodology should be adequately described, and the work placed within its context in relation to earlier research. Students are encouraged to base their work on primary data collected by themselves.

The object of the test lecture is to ascertain that the candidate has reached the goals defined for the course. The topic of the lecture is set by the examining committee together with the supervisor, on the basis of an individual reading list handed in by the student with the dissertation. The list should reflect some of the central concerns of their work and refer to a minimum of 750 pages of secondary literature. The topic is given to the student ten working days before the date of the lecture.

The lecture is given as soon as possible after the evaluation of the dissertation by the examining committee. The final mark for the course is based on the dissertation, but may be adjusted up or down (by one mark only) on the basis of the lecture.

## Required prerequisite knowledge

First year of master's studies.

## Exam

	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Supporting materials</b>
Dissertation and oral exam	1/1		A - F	

Written dissertation: 85-115 pages, 12-point Times New Roman and 1.5 spacing, not including

appendices, references and large tables.

Oral presentation: 30 minutes (+/- 5 minutes), adjusting function in relation to the dissertation mark (+/- 1 mark)

The student must have passed both parts of the examination (dissertation and test lecture) in order to receive a pass mark. Students who fail the test lecture will be allowed another attempt, with a new date and topic.

There are two submission dates for theses each year, one in May and one in November. Theses cannot be submitted at any other times.

## **Coursework requirements**

A project proposal, Supervision meetings, Seminars 75%, An individual reading list

- A project proposal (1500-2500 words), to be handed in by a specific deadline (usually within October)
- A minimum of eight supervision meetings
- Attendance at a dissertation writing seminar throughout the year, with no more than 25% absence
- An individual reading list (referring to min. 750 pages of secondary literature), handed in together with the thesis

The obligatory activities must be completed before the dissertation may be submitted. The student must have completed all the taught modules (altogether 60 sp) before submitting the dissertation. The dissertation and individual reading list have to be submitted before the student may give a test lecture.

## **Subject teacher(s)**

### **Course coordinator**

Ion Patrick Francis Drew

### **Course teacher**

Allen Clarence Jones, Sonya Louise Lundblad, Merja Riitta Stenroos, Jena Lee Habegger-Conti, Torill Irene Hestetraet, Eric Dean Rasmussen, Brita Strand Rangnes, Milica Savic, Oliver Martin Traxel

### **Programme coordinator**

Signe Ekenberg, Oddvar Norland, Anne Marie Nygaard

## **Method of work**

Individual work, supervision meetings, seminars.

## **Overlapping courses**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Reduction (credits)</b>
Dissertation (MLIHOV_1)	60

## **Open to**

Advanced teacher education for levels 8-13, Literacy Studies - Master's Degree Programme, Literacy Studies - Master's Degree Programme - Part-time

## **Course assessment**

Quality control by students is a central element of the UiS plan to improve teaching. In the Department of Cultural Studies and Languages this system includes student evaluation of courses.

## **Literature**

The student will put together an individual reading list (referring to min. 750 pages of secondary literature), that reflects some central concerns of their work on the thesis. Once the dissertation has been evaluated, the student will give a lecture on a topic relating to the subject areas represented in the reading li

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