

UiB Institutt for Fremmedspråk
ENG340 • Spring 2019
MA Thesis Writing Preparation
for English Literature and Culture

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Course content: This is a course designed to prepare you for writing your English literature MA thesis. The course consists of writing instruction as well as critical thinking and research methods. By the end of this course you will have a thesis topic, an advisor, and a thesis proposal – and be ready to embark upon writing your English literature MA thesis.

Learning outcomes: To gain an understanding of the basic prerequisites, ideals, and conditions of MA-level literary research and thus be prepared to write a thesis.

Required reading books: Although not every chapter of these books might be assigned for this class, you will refer to other chapters throughout your thesis writing, so please buy them – available at Akademika, or may be purchased as e-books if possible.

1. Robert Dale Parker, *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies*, 3rd edition (Oxford, 2014)
2. Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, 2018) [8th edition also ok]

Other reading: Selections of the following books:

1. Irene L. Clark, *Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation* (Prentice Hall, 2007)
2. Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*, 3rd edition (Norton, 2014) – or most recent 2017 edition

Obligatory Assignments: Your “exam” for this course consists of a *mappe*, or portfolio of four assignments you will complete throughout the duration of the course. Detailed assignment sheets will follow; due dates are listed on the schedule on the next page. Each assignment is pass/fail and all assignments must pass for you to pass the course. More detailed directions and samples for each assignment will be distributed during the semester.

Total portfolio consists of:

[1] Report on 2 theses (2-3 pages)

[2] Project idea form with two project idea paragraphs (1 page total)

[3] Annotated bibliography (5 pages)

[4] Project proposal (2-3 pages)

Obligatory Attendance: Attendance is required at 6 of the 8 seminars, including required attendance at the final project proposal workshop (seminar 8). Since this course is a seminar, your class participation in discussion is necessary. It is important that you come to class prepared to discuss the day’s assigned topics.

Grading: This course is pass/fail. Obligatory assignments and attendance must be fulfilled to pass the course.

Schedule *Highlighted meetings/deadlines for all students in lit/cult, registered or not*

Seminar 1	Week 8 Mon 18 Feb 14:15-16:00 HF 371	Getting started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: Turabian, ch. 1 • <u>Prep</u>: Come prepared with a list of 5 interests that could relate to a thesis topic: texts, genres, periods, authors, theories, anything related to English literature and culture – as specific as possible
Seminar 2	Week 10 Mon 4 Mar 14:15-16:00 HF 371	Evaluating Sample Theses DUE [1] Report on 2 theses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Prep</u>: Class presentation of report
Seminar 3	Week 11 Mon 11 Mar 14:15-16:00 HF 317	Theory and Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: Assigned theoretical/critical approach - one Parker chapter + one relevant essay from Rivkin & Ryan • <u>Prep</u>: Class presentation of assigned theoretical/critical approach
Seminar 4	Week 12 Wed 20 Mar 10:15-12:00 HF 217	Thesis idea brainstorming session [open for all lit/cult students] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: Turabian, ch. 2 • <u>Prep</u>: Come with 1-3 thesis project ideas
Seminar 5	Week 14 Mon 1 April 14:15-16:00 HF 371	Brainstorming / Developing a Project Idea Paragraph Part I [open] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: Turabian, ch. 3 • <u>Email the day before</u>: First draft of 2 project idea paragraphs • <u>Prep</u>: Bring in a secondary source for each idea
Seminar 6	Week 15 Mon 8 April 14:15-16:00 HF 371	Brainstorming / Developing a Project Idea Paragraph Part II [open] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Email the day before</u>: Second draft of 2 project idea paragraphs • <u>Prep</u>: Bring in an additional secondary source for each idea
	Week 16 15 April	DUE [2] Project Idea Form with two project idea paragraphs ADVISOR ASSIGNMENTS MADE, WEEK 16-17 <i>Meet with your advisor to discuss your idea and formulate a plan for the thesis proposal, ideally involving one draft and revision</i>
Seminar 7	Week 18 Thurs 2 May 12:15-14:00 HF 217	Working with Sources Part I: the Thesis Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: Turabian, ch. 5 & 6; <i>They Say, I Say</i>, ch. 2 & 3, sample thesis proposals • <u>Prep</u>: Bring in one book on your topic from the library on your topic and 2 different book reviews of that book (can be found on <i>Oria</i>)
Seminar 8	Week 19 Mon 8 May 14:15-16:00 HF 371	Working with sources Part II: the Annotated Bibliography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reading</u>: Turabian, ch. 3 & 4, ch. 18-19 • <u>Prep</u>: Bring in 3 draft annotated bibliography entries
	Week 21 20 May	DUE [3] Annotated bibliography
	Week 22 29 May	DUE [4] Thesis proposal + WHOLE PORTFOLIO
	Week 23 TBA	Final Thesis Proposal Workshop - for all Lit/Cult MA students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Prep</u>: Read all the thesis proposals and come prepared to discuss