



Institut für Englische Sprache und Literatur: Literary and Cultural Studies

Writing your B.A. or M.Ed. thesis on Anglophone literature or culture

If you are considering writing your B.A. or M.Ed. thesis in the field of literary or cultural studies, the first step for you is to introduce yourself to the lecturer you would like to be your first supervisor and to discuss the potential topic of your thesis with them.

After conducting your first research, you should then write a short **thesis proposal**, which gives a rough outline of what you intend to do, and send it to your lecturer (c. 500 words altogether). This will function as a “roadmap” for your further discussions and planning. If you know where you wish to go with your thesis, it is easier for you to actually get there. And the more careful the planning, the clearer the process will become.

The short thesis proposal should outline the topic you would like to write about and mention some questions that might be relevant for your investigation. The thesis proposal will help you to better understand where your own interests actually are situated, to become better informed about your topic, and to become more fluent regarding the issues that pertain to it. The proposal lays the groundwork for your research project.

Please mention the primary material [poems, play(s), novel(s), short stories, film(s), etc.] you wish to analyse and which theoretical approach you chose for your thesis. The earlier you know which sources you will definitely need, the better. You should roughly outline how you will be going about, for instance whether you already have/how you will get access to your material, and mention whether you are already familiar with the theoretical concept(s) you will base your investigation on.

Please tell us why you would like to write about this topic (personal interest, relevance of topic). You might already have an assumption, a hypothesis or a supposition that you can



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mention. If you have already even formulated a thesis statement or/and a tentative title, you can include it/them.

You should mention the potential outcome or the aim of your investigation and also think about the frame and limitations of what you can realistically achieve. You should briefly mention what you will not be covering and why. The aim is to discuss a realistic and manageable work plan with your lecturer.

You need to include a very short bibliography of the primary and secondary sources you plan to use (2-4 titles) at the end of the proposal. In order to show that you are already familiar with one or more of these sources, within the proposal you should incorporate two paragraphs which include

- 1) a sentence which paraphrases the content of a helpful passage from one of your sources,
- 2) a fitting, long direct quote of a passage of one of your sources that is to be indented, and
- 3) a short direct quote from one of your sources that you incorporate into one of your sentences.

Make sure to list the following pieces of information: your **name**, **matriculation number**, **Studiengang**, and **semester**. Please also let us know which **literature and/or culture VT1 seminars** you attended in the past semesters (title, semester, lecturer) and the **titles of term papers** you wrote in those seminars. Please attach a copy of one of these term papers to an email or let us have a printed version.

Afterwards, your lecturer will inform you whether he or she agrees to supervise your thesis or not. If you have any questions beforehand, please do not hesitate to approach us during our office hours or contact us via email.