



English / American Studies

Standards and Quality Criteria for Term Papers/Theses in Literary Studies

The requirements which apply to term papers/theses are basically the same for all modules and courses of study (BA, BEd, MA, MEd). You are expected to be familiar with the categories and terminologies for text analysis in literary studies as taught in the “Introduction to Literary Studies”. Differences result from the level of competency and concern the page count of your paper/thesis, the number of sources used, their evaluation, and the complexity of your argumentation.

Length

The number of pages refers to those pages of pure text (formatted in accordance with the Style Sheet), exclusive of the title page, the table of contents, the bibliography and the appendix.

INTRODUCTION (PO 2015):

- 2 LP (ANG-C1): 5 pages, 5 sources

SEMINAR (MAP):

- 2 LP (ANG-H-C2, ANG-P-BC2; ANG-H-AC3A to D, ANG-H-AC3): 8 pages, 8 sources
- 2 LP (ANG-P-BC2): 6-8 pages, 6-8 sources
- 3 LP (ANG-P-AC3A to D, ANG-P-AC3, ANG-FG-C2[PO 2015]): 10 pages, 10 sources
- 4 LP (ANG-FG-C2[PO 2021]): 12 pages, 12 sources

HAUPTSEMINAR/ ADVANCED SEMINAR (MAP):

- 2 LP (M-ENG2 or EN 1 [P]): 10 pages, 10 sources
- 4 LP (Z LIT 1a, Z LIT 1b, M-ENG8 or EN 1 [GymGe and BK]): 12-14 pages, 12-14 sources
- 5 LP (Z LIT): 14-16 pages, 14-16 sources
- 6 LP (ANG-F-C3A, ANG-G-C3A to D): 15 pages, 15 sources
- 6 LP (INTER, LIT 1a, LIT 1b, LIT 2): 16-18 pages, 16-18 sources

THESIS

- BA-Thesis: 35 pages, 20-30 sources
- MEd-Thesis: 50-55 pages, 30-40 sources
- MA-Thesis: 60-75 pages, 40-60 sources

Parts of Your Paper

1) Title page

- Complete information about author and course.
- Use the template (see Style Sheet).

2) Introduction

- Introduce the topic of your paper.
- Formulate a scientific thesis in clear and accurate terms.
- Provide a brief overview of your approach to the topic and the structure of your paper.

3) Theoretical Part

- Explain scientific issues that can be derived from the thesis (specify these, while indicating exclusion criteria for aspects and topics you do not discuss, state research questions).
- Engage with pre-existing scholarship on your topic, demonstrate your familiarity with the relevant research literature.
- Name and explain theoretical and methodological foundations, introduce and define relevant concepts as used in literary and cultural studies.

4) Analytical / Interpretive Part

- Analyze the primary texts using the terminology introduced in the “Introduction to Literary Studies” (analysis of drama, poetry and narrative texts).
- Focus on aspects relevant to your research question (connection to theoretical part).
- Elaborate upon your thesis in an argumentative and reflective way, avoid re-narrations (no summaries).

5) Conclusion

- Draw together the results of your argumentation.
- Assess the insights you have gained with reference to the thesis first mentioned in the introduction.

6) Works Cited

- A formally correct listing of the literature used (style sheet)
- (Your instructor may decide whether you must separate your primary texts from your secondary texts.)

7) Appendix

- Declaration of originality (Plagiarism).
- Applies only to “Introduction to Literary Studies”: Proof of participation in the library training course (copy).
- Completed course credit form or completed module sheet.

Quality Criteria for Research Papers

- Scientific theses are obtained and formulated through engaging with the state of research.
- Theses are to be formulated in such a way that they can be approached within a scientific frame of reference and methods (text analysis, interpretation, historical contextualization).
- The quality of your sources is determined by their topicality and relevance to your topic; independent literature research and acquisition (MLA, interlibrary loan) will usually be necessary.
- Sources must be reproduced correctly including their argumentation (no *pro forma* citations).
- Online sources are usually not allowed, with the exception of academic sources.
- Footnotes contain explanations and additional information.