



Guidelines for the defense of the final thesis and the final exam

Information for students finishing their BA and MA programs

The chairperson of the commission for the final examinations welcomes all candidates at the beginning and briefly describes the course of the defenses and examinations during the day.

We start with the theses defense - all students defend. When the defenses are over, we continue with the final exams in the MA programs.

Thesis defense

Defenses and final exams at the Department of English and American Studies are usually held in English.

1. The order of students is published on the door of room where the defenses and final exams take place.
2. The student defends the thesis before the examination commission that usually includes the supervisor, the opponent, or both.
3. The chairperson of the commission invites the student to briefly present his/her work. Here it is recommended to prepare a short power-point presentation, 5 - 6 slides. If the thesis contains informative graphs or tables, e.g. summary of the results of the analysis, it is good to include and comment on them).
4. Presentation of the work usually means: briefly clarifying the main objectives of the thesis, stating hypotheses and research questions, stating the basic theoretical background and explaining the research method used, summarizing the findings and commenting on how they confirmed or refuted the hypotheses, or whether they answered the research questions. The text in the slides should be brief, the student should give a specific explanations orally commenting on the text rather than mechanically reading the text in the slides. This presentation of the work should not exceed 10 minutes.
5. At the defense, the student is expected to be well acquainted with his-her thesis, ready to respond to all comments and respond to the questions given in the reviews. The responses to the review questions can form the last slide of the power-point presentation.
6. Overall, the student is expected to know his/her thesis thoroughly and to be able to find the parts of the thesis that is referred to upon request.
7. The defense of the thesis is evaluated by a separate grade, in principle independent of the grades in the reviews, therefore it is important that the student is well prepared. The oral defense of the thesis offers the student the opportunity to complete the missing elements or explain the problem areas identified in the reviews.
8. The thesis defense is a part of the final exams.
9. After the defense, the student leaves the room, the commission consults, and then announces the result.

Final exams

After the thesis defense, the commission for the final exams starts the exams.

Students enter the room according to the published list on the door, changes in the order among the students are possible.



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The student draws questions in front of the members of the commission. The number of questions is given by the study program (see published guidelines). The student reads the number and wording of the question aloud, and the question is registered by the commission. The student usually has 10-15 minutes to prepare.

The student responds and discusses in front of the committee and leaves the room after.

All students await the final announcement of the results, which will be announced by the chairperson of the examination commission in the presence of all members of the commission either individually or to all students.

An informal discussion between teachers and students may follow the official part of the final exams.

We wish you successful defense and examinations!