**Universidad Zaragoza**
1542

# Máster en Estudios Textuales y Culturales en Lengua Inglesa
# 60712 - Master□s thesis

**Course 2012 - 2013**

**Curso: 1, Semestre: 0, Créditos: 15.0**

## Basic information

### Teachers

No available data.

### Recommendations to attend this course

The Master Thesis can be supervised by any member of the teaching staff in the Programme. Students need to pass the six (three compulsory, three optional) courses and obtain a minimum of 45 credits in order to present their dissertation.

### Course Schedule and Deadlines

Once s/he has finished the courses and written the thesis, the student is expected to defend it in a public session. The thesis defense will take place on one of the two optional dates yearly scheduled by the Faculty (September or November).

## Home

## Learning outcomes that define this course

**The student, in order to pass the course, will have to show her/his competence in the following skills:**

**1:**
The student will be able to write on a research topic independently and rigorously and produce original ideas.

**2:**
The student will be able to conduct basic research tasks (searching information sources, analyzing them, synthesizing and interpreting them critically, developing a hypothesis and drawing pertinent conclusions) in an autonomous way.

**3:**
The student will be able to apply a theoretical framework and a methodology for developing a given research topic.

**4:**
The student will be able to write a research project following the established conventions on structure and style.

# Introduction

## Brief presentation of the course

The Master Thesis is the culmination of the master courses. Students are expected to write a 12,000-word dissertation in English, on an issue related to any of the three subject areas included in the Master's programme, under the supervision of one of the lecturers in the programme. The thesis, which must be original and well researched, must include an introduction, a methodological approach, a development of the initial hypothesis, a conclusion, a table of contents, and a reference list. The reference system employed must be consistent throughout.

# Competences

# General aims of the course

## The expected results of the course respond to the following general aims

The Master Thesis is scheduled as the most relevant task in the master degree, its main aim being to validate the competences the candidate has acquired in the previous courses of the Programme. Emphasis is put on the student's skills to handle theoretical frames, to use a useful methodology and to develop and defend a sustainable and extensive piece of research.

## Context/Importance of the course for the master degree

The Master Thesis represents the final academic goal in the degree. Once successfully passed, students qualify as PhD candidates or may choose to pursue other professional aims in the field of basic or applied research.

## After completing the course, the student will be competent in the following skills:

**1:**
Ability to develop an original research topic rigorously in the chosen academic/professional field.

**2:**
Ability to carry out basic research activities (finding bibliographical sources, analyzing the information, synthesizing the information, interpreting it critically) autonomously.

**3:**
Ability to use a methodological approach relevant to the chosen research corpus.

**4:**
Ability to understand and apply, at least, one relevant updated theoretical framework for his/her chosen academic/professional field.

**5:**
Ability to establish a hypothesis and reach pertinent results and conclusions.

**6:**
Ability to organise and write research papers with the established conventions of structure and style.

## Relevance of the skills acquired in the course

When completing the Master Thesis, the student will have reached an intellectual level sufficiently skilled to carry out research tasks in his/her academic or professional field. The student may then choose to become a PhD candidate.

# Evaluation

## Assessment tasks

**The student will prove that he/she has achieved the expected learning results by means of the following assessment tasks:**

**1:**

Students are expected to write a 12,000-word dissertation in English on an issue related to any of the three subject areas included in the Master's programme, under the supervision of one of the lecturers in the programme. The thesis, which must be original and well researched, must include an introduction, a methodological approach, a development of the initial hypothesis, a conclusion, a table of contents, and a reference list. The reference system employed must be consistent throughout.

The thesis draft will be periodically evaluated by the supervisor till s/he decides that it is ready for evaluation in a public session.

These guidelines apply to both the first and the second official announcements.

**2:**

The thesis will be assessed by a Committee of three staff members of the Master Programme and will be defended by the candidate in a public session. The Committee will evaluate the following aspects in the work:

1) The structure of the dissertation
2) Its methodology
3) The effective use of a relevant theoretical framework
4) The presentation and development of a relevant initial hypothesis
5) The choice and use of a valid bibliography
6) The correct use of English
7) The academic/professional relevance of its results

# Activities and resources

## Course methodology

**The learning process that has been designed for this course is based on the following activities:**

The student is expected to work in an autonomous way. The student will choose a topic for discussion for his/her research project. The supervisor will instruct her/his tutee about possible topics, methodology and critical approaches for the writing of the thesis. The research topic must be directly related to the topics taught by the supervisor in the Master. With the help of the supervisor, the student is expected to write the thesis using an adequate theoretical and methodological framework and reaching pertinent conclusions.

## Outline of the Programme

**The programme offered to the students to help them achieve the learning results includes the following activities :**

**1:**

**SUPERVISION AND TUTORIALS (30 hours, Summer period: from June to September)**

**A) Choice of topic and bibliography (8 hours):** At this first stage, the supervisor advises the student on

methodological aspects, bibliography and selected topics for the textual analysis, offering a number of preliminary readings and suggesting a number of research topics.

**B) Structuring the research project (2 hours):** At this stage the student hands in a general plan of the dissertation to her/his supervisor, who will make recommendations on further readings and rewrites.

**C) Revision of dissertation's draft (10 hours):** At this stage, the student will have finished the first draft. The supervisor will make suggestions for further rewrites.

**D) Second draft revision and public defense (10 hours):** At this final stage, the supervisor reads the second draft of the thesis and helps the student to write the public defence of the Thesis

**2:**

**INDIVIDUAL WORK (290 hours):**

Revision of critical concepts explained in the tutorials, reading of bibliography, individual reading and textual analysis of the selected texts.

**3:**

**THESIS DRAFTS AND DEFENSE (75 hours)**

Writing and corrections of the dissertation's drafts. Writing of the dissertation's public defense. Defense.

**4:**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES**

The supervisor will give the student a reference list to be read at the library. Students are also encouraged to consult further bibliography and web pages about the topics considered for the Master Thesis.

# Course planning

## Calendar of actual sessions and presentation of works

The different academic stages for writing the dissertation are detailed above. Individual tuition will take place at the supervisor's office.

Once the Master Thesis is completed, the candidate is requested to distribute copies of it to the three members of the Committee who will evaluate the work. Copies should reach the Committee at least 15 days before the arranged public session for the thesis defense.

# Bibliographic references of the recommended readings