



Máster en Estudios Avanzados de Literatura y Cine en Lengua Inglesa 61659 - Master's Degree Dissertation

Course 2015 - 2016

Curso: 1, Semestre: 2, 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 submit 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 defence will take place on one of the four optional dates yearly scheduled by the Faculty.

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:** To search for original ideas/hypotheses for the writing of a research project in the field of English Studies
- 2:** To apply the knowledge acquired to solve problems in other contexts related to his/her field of study
- 3:** To relate and integrate learnt concepts in order to make sound judgements
- 4:** To communicate his/her conclusions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences in clear English
- 5:** To develop learning skills that will allow him/her to keep on learning in an autonomous way
- 6:** To use academic English (oral and written) at an advanced level

- 7:** To apply analytical and critical methodology at an advanced level
- 8:**
To use bibliographical sources at an advanced level
- 9:**
To use computer tools at an advanced level
- 10:**
To apply different strategies for the search, analysis, synthesis and spreading of information
- 11:**
To carry out critical analyses of English texts using the appropriate theoretical approaches
- 12:**
To solve problems and take decisions in order to carry out a thorough research project
- 13:**
To understand and relate the main concepts from different literary/filmic critical approaches
- 14:**
To apply different critical and theoretical frameworks to the analysis of literary/filmic texts correctly
- 15:**
To explain the relevance of the critical concepts used for the study of the literary/filmic text under analysis
- 16:**
To use the literary/filmic text under analysis as the main source of textual information and interpretation
- 17:**
To be aware of the necessarily contingent nature of a specific textual approach and of the possibility of providing different interpretations of literary/filmic English texts
- 18:**
To establish connections between different critical concepts and theoretical frameworks relevant for the analysis of literary/filmic English texts

Introduction

Brief presentation of the course

The Master Thesis is the culmination of the Master courses. Students are expected to write a 20,000-word dissertation in English, on an issue related to any of the two 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:**
CB6: To acquire enough knowledge to be original when developing and applying new ideas in a research context
- 2:**
CB7: To use the acquired knowledge in order to solve problems in new and wider interdisciplinary contexts related to his/her field of study
- 3:**
CB8: To integrate what has been learnt in order to interpret the data found and to make sound judgements
- 4:**
CB9: To communicate his/her conclusions (together with the reasons that led him/her to reach them) to both specialised and non-specialised audiences in clear English
- 5:**
CB10: To acquire the learning skills that will allow him/her to keep on learning in an autonomous way
- 6:**
CT1: Capacity to use academic (oral and written) English at an advanced level
- 7:**
CT2: Capacity to be methodologically rigorous
- 8:**
CT3: Capacity to use bibliographical sources at an advanced level
- 9:**
CT4: Capacity to use computer tools at an advanced level
- 10:**
CT5: Capacity to search, analyse, synthesise and disseminate information at an advanced level
- 11:**
CT6: Capacity to make critical judgements at an advanced level
- 12:**
CT7: Capacity to solve problems and take decisions to carry out a thorough academic work
- 13:**
CE1: Capacity to understand and assimilate the fundamental concepts of different critical literary/filmic approaches
- 14:**
CE2: Capacity to apply critical concepts and theoretical frameworks to the analysis of a literary/filmic text correctly
- 15:**
CE3: Capacity to argue the relevance of the critical concepts used in the study of the literary/filmic text under analysis
- 16:**
CE4: Capacity to use the literary/filmic text as the main source of textual information and interpretation
- 17:**
CE5: Capacity to understand the necessarily contingent nature of a specific textual approach and to acknowledge the possibility of offering different interpretations of literary/filmic texts in English
- 18:**
CE6: Capacity to establish connections between different critical concepts and/or theoretical frameworks

relevant for the analysis of literary/filmic texts

Relevance of the skills acquired in the course

The aims proposed in this subject are crucial to provide students with enough knowledge for them to conduct a successful research project in the field of English Studies. The capacity to develop and apply original ideas in an academic and research context is also fundamental for conducting research in the field of literary and filmic studies in English. Furthermore, specific skills, such as the capacity to relate concepts starting from different themes, make use of complex information, reach relevant conclusions making use of the English language clearly and adequately (both for a specialised and a non-specialised audience), and be able to develop a research line in an autonomous way are crucial skills for the researcher to be.

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 20,000-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.

First Official Announcement:

Students are expected to write a 20,000-word dissertation in English on an issue related to any of the two 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

3:

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

Assessment Criteria:

The Committee will evaluate the following aspects in the work:

- 1) The methodology used
- 2) The effective use of a relevant theoretical framework
- 3) The presentation and development of a relevant initial hypothesis
- 4) The academic/professional relevance of its results
- 5) The choice and use of a valid bibliography
- 6) The capacity to present and debate the thesis during the viva
- 7) The correct use of English

Elaboration and writing of the Master Thesis = 80%; Defence and oral presentation of the Master Thesis = 20%

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:
Individual work:
INDIVIDUAL WORK (290 hours):
Revision of critical concepts explained in the tutorials, reading of bibliography, individual reading and textual analysis of the selected texts.
- 2:
Supervision and tutorials:

A) **Submission of Dissertation** (20 hours): At this final stage, the supervisor reads the final draft of the student on methodological aspects, bibliographic and theoretical aspects. The text is analyzed, the supervisor reads the preliminary readings and suggesting a number of research topics.

B) **Structuring the research project:** At this stage the student hands in a general plan of the dissertation to his/her 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 defence (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.

3:
Thesis Drafts and Defence:
 THESIS DRAFTS AND DEFENSE (75 hours)
Writing and corrections of the dissertation's drafts. Writing of the dissertation's public defense. Defense.

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.

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 defence.

Deadline for the submission of the Master Thesis: as per exam schedule of the Faculty.

Bibliographic references of the recommended readings