

**GUIDELINES FOR GRADING:  
GEOG3910 - MASTER'S THESIS IN MSc IN GLOBALIZATION:  
TRANSNATIONALISM AND CULTURE**

**Department of Geography**

**(18.11. 2016)**

**I. An interdisciplinary Master's program**

Required previous knowledge: Admission to examination requires that the student qualify for admission to the program and have completed 90ETCS/credits within the program.

Admission to the MSc in Globalization requires a Bachelor's degree from within the Social Sciences or the Humanities with minimum 80 ECTS in one of the following disciplines: political science, sociology, social anthropology, history, geography, European studies, economics, development studies, international relations, religious studies or social work. This means that unlike master students who do have a discipline specific master's degree the students following this interdisciplinary Master's program do not necessarily have a major/specialisation in the same field as the one they write their Master's thesis on. The broad and interdisciplinary background of the students should therefore be taken into consideration when evaluating the master's thesis.

The thesis should be written in the final semester. The contents of the thesis should correspond to an academic level appropriate for a master's level course and should relate to the interdisciplinary character of the masters' program as reflected in the combination of core courses.

**II. Formal requirements**

Content of master's thesis: A master's thesis counts for 30 study credits and should be 17,500 – 24,500 words in length (c.50-70 pages), excluding the summary, preface, the contents, figures, and tables lists, references/literature lists, and appendixes. The title page should be followed by a summary in English, maximum 1 page/c.350 words.

Style and references formatting: The main text (body text) should be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font with 1.5-line spacing. Arial font is recommended for section headings. Further, it is recommended that candidates use the same style and references formatting as in

*Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift–Norwegian Journal of Geography*. If other reference formats are used, for example APA or Harvard, it's important that the candidate is consistent.

Assessment: After the thesis has been submitted the candidate will be allotted date and time for oral examination lasting up to 1 hour based on the thesis. At the beginning of the oral examination the candidate must hold a 10-15-minute presentation of the thesis. It will not be possible to use PowerPoint or similar presentation tools. An overall grade will be awarded on the basis of the thesis and oral examination, and will be announced following the completion of the oral examination.

Examiners: The Department will appoint two examiners for the assessment of the thesis, one of whom will be an external examiner, cf. Section 3-9 (2) of the Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges of 1 April 2005. External examiners will not have any employment connections with NTNU. The candidate's supervisor(s) will not be examiners. In cases of disagreement regarding grading, the external examiner will make the final decision on the grade to be awarded (cf. Regulations for Studies at NTNU, supplementary regulations for SVT, Section 37 (2)).

Supervisor's role and censorship: If necessary, the examiners may contact the candidate's supervisor(s) to obtain a brief account of the candidate's work.

Appeals: A candidate has the right to appeal against the grade they have been awarded. The appeal should be submitted to the SVT Faculty using the appropriate appeal form on NTNU's 'Explanation of grades and appeals' website. The deadline for an appeal is three weeks from the date when the grade is announced. In cases where the grade is based on both the written part and the oral exam, and the assessment of the written part (i.e. master's thesis) is subsequently changed, a new oral exam will be held to determine the grade (cf. Section 3-9 (5) of the Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges of 1 April 2005). If the appeals committee reaches the same conclusion as the original examiners regarding the master's thesis (based on evaluation of both the thesis and the oral exam), the Department will not be under any obligation to arrange a new oral exam on the basis of the appeal.

A candidate may appeal against procedural errors. Such an appeal should be within three weeks of the candidate finding out about a matter that gives them reason to appeal.

Justification of grading: The candidate may request an explanation of the rationale for the oral part of the examination immediately after notification of the grade awarded. Note that appeals cannot be made regarding the assessment of the oral exam. Candidates have one week to request an explanation of the basis for the grading of their master's thesis. The request should be submitted using NTNU's form for requesting an explanation of the grade awarded.

Plagiarism/copying is considered cheating. In cases of suspected plagiarism or copying, a grade will not be awarded to the candidate and the case will be handled in accordance with the Department of Geography's guidelines for dealing with cheating or attempted cheating.

### **III. Grading scale**

The grading scale used in conjunction with the exam for evaluation of the thesis ranges from A (highest grade) to F (failed). Please note that the thesis is worth 30 credits. Graduation with no delays according to the given time plan will be positively assessed.

A:

An exceptionally well-written thesis that is well organized, has well-defined research objectives, advanced and adequate theory and methodology, an especially well performed analysis, together with very well formulated conclusions or recommendations. The candidate demonstrates exceptional reflective and analytical ability, and an outstanding degree of academic maturity and independence.

B:

A very well written thesis that is well organized has well-defined research objectives, advanced and adequate theory and methodology, and well performed analysis together with well formulated conclusions or recommendations. The candidate demonstrates very good reflective and analytical ability, and high degree of academic maturity and independence.

C:

A well written thesis which is good in most parts, is clear and concise, has adequate theory and methodology, a good analysis, together with well formulated conclusions or recommendations. The candidate demonstrates a certain reflective and/or analytical ability and a certain degree of academic maturity and independence. Minor deficiencies can be accepted.

Alternatively, a thesis with a more original research objective and/or higher theoretical and methodological aims, but where certain theoretical and/or methodological weaknesses can be found.

D:

The work indicates little independence and limited ability in formulating clear approaches.

Treatment of problems and presentation of results are characterised by serious theoretical and methodological errors.

E:

The thesis is characterised by a lack of understanding of approaches to research, weak scientific treatment of problems and poor presentation.

F:

The work is marked by lack of approach and serious theoretical and methodological errors and omissions.

### **III. Checklist**

Grading of master's theses should be based on the following guidelines (not in any order of priority)

- a) Candidate's ability to penetrate into a research topic and define approaches to problems.
- b) Candidate's ability to develop a perspective and familiarise themselves with theoretical and empirical research within the field.
- c) Candidate's ability to deal independently with the thesis' content.
- d) Candidate's ability to order and present their work, including an awareness of current standards for contributions to scientific publications, e.g. those concerning formatting references.
- e) Candidate's originality in contribution to new research problems and results.
- f) Candidate's methodology.
- g) Graduation with no delays will be positively assessed.