

MASTER Research Seminar

Cultures of the In-Between – Minorities, Subcultures, and the American Counter-Imagination

Time: Wednesday, 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. · **First session:** 9 March 2022

“Cultures of the In-Between: Minorities, Subcultures, and the American Counter-Imagination”

Lecturer: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefan Brandt · **Course number:** 512.343

Office hours: Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. (digital office hours) · **Email:** stefan.brandt@uni-graz.at

Course tutor: Veronika Rom (veronika.rom@uni-graz.at)

Location: SR 34.D2 (Attemsgasse 25, Top Floor). The course is scheduled to take place in presence!

(Just in case we need to go online, the UniMeet link is: <https://unimeet.uni-graz.at/b/bra-w8m-o40-8au>)

Description:

This Master Research Seminar offers a forum for candidates writing their Master's theses and preparing for their final exams. The course will convey the basic techniques of writing a thesis (organization, research, structure, time management). In addition, participants will be prepared for the oral exam, including the opportunity of taking a mock exam. B.A. students are also welcome to participate in the course.

Teaching and Learning Method: This is an interactive course. Participation in group discussions will be part of the final grade.

Materials: Handouts and relevant texts will be made available as printouts and/or on **Moodle**.

Aims: Familiarizing students with the main tenets of writing a master's/diploma thesis and preparing for an oral exam; giving detailed feedback on current projects.

Deadline for 'Thesis in a Nutshell': Mon, 18 July, 2022 (Upload your paper as Word document and add a link to an *editable* version on Google Docs!)

Assessment:

A.) Regular attendance (no more than 2 absences!) and **active participation** (1/3);

B.) Presentation (incl. uploading of material onto Moodle course site) (1/3);

C.) 2-page research proposal plus **8-page thesis in a nutshell** (including title page, table of contents, and bibliography). Please use templates on Moodle! (1/3).

Note: You need to pass each section to pass the whole course!

Assessment

A.) REGULAR ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance and **active participation** in the discussion sessions are crucial to the success of the course.

You are expected to be present in our (digital) meeting not only having read the assigned material, but also prepared to fully engage with the material, ask questions about it, offer perceptive interpretations, and even argue for your way of reading the text at hand.

Note: There might be **pop quizzes** (i.e., unannounced online tests at the beginning of a session) to check whether you have read the materials.

Although the primary responsibility for each session will rest with the instructor, all students share the responsibility for contributing to the discussion.

Absences from class must be explained in writing, preferably prior to class. No more than two absences are allowed.

B. PRESENTATION

Prepare a 20- to 30-minute presentation of your thesis (PowerPoint or Prezi). Make sure you upload additional materials on your topic on Moodle. (This could include scholarly articles, clips, and other useful documents, etc.). These materials can be uploaded *before* the session to give students the chance to prepare for your topic (please announce this in advance whether one or two shorter texts should be read by all participants) or *after* the session. You also need to upload your Presentation in the respective section on Moodle.

C. RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND FINAL PAPER

A **research proposal** (2 pages) is due around mid-term. Look for the exact dates in the course agenda below. The form for the research proposal is available on Moodle. Follow the instructions in the document.

The **final paper** (ca. 8 pages, including title page, table of contents, and bibliography, 2,500 – 3,000 words) should be typed (1.5-spaced, using one side of the sheet only, pages numbered). The paper should show your name, your student email address, the course title, the instructor's name, the date of submission, and the number of words. Primary and secondary sources need to be cited according to the Uni Graz guidelines for style and format.

The **deadline** for submission of the final paper is **Monday, July 18, 2022**. There is **no extension** of this deadline. Keep in mind: A good paper is a finished paper.

Syllabus

9 March | Introduction

16 March | Literary and Cultural Studies – An Introduction

23 March | How to Develop a Research Project (General Procedure, Time Management, Proposal)

30 March | Academic Research (Steps of Research, Consulting Libraries & Online Databases)

27 April | Structure of a Final Paper (The Golden Rules of Academic Writing).

04 May | The Cardinal Sins of Paper Writing (What you should avoid)

Presentation of Student Project

11 May | Literary and Cultural Theories

Presentation of Student Project

18 May | Independent Study Unit

No class! Complete a 2-page research proposal for your final paper (see Moodle).

**DUE DATE
RESEARCH
PROPOSAL**

25 May | Close Readings

Presentation of Student Project

1 June | Question Time (Note down questions in advance and bring them to the session.)

Presentation of Student Project

8 June | Reference Citation (MLA, Chicago, Graz)

Presentation of Student Project

15 June | Grading (Models for Paper Assessments)

Presentation of Student Project

**BRING TWO
BOOKS FOR
YOUR
FINAL
PAPER**

22 June | Oral Exam (Methods, Procedure, Preparation)

Presentation of Student Project

29 June | Oral Exam (Mock Exams)

Presentation of Student Project

DEADLINE FINAL PAPER: MONDAY, 18 JULY 2022