



Stockholms  
universitet

# Kursbeskrivning

FS1112 Master's Program in Fashion Studies

Spring 2019

Unit 5: Master's Thesis

Course coordinator: Louise Wallenberg

Start of the course: January 21, 10.00 in seminar room Angela

## **Course description:**

These guidelines apply to the Master's Thesis module of the second year of the Master program in Fashion Studies. The thesis consists of a 60-65 page long essay written individually in English. Based on your thesis proposal, you will be assigned a supervisor at the beginning of the term.

The thesis enables you to further advance the skills and knowledge you have developed during the courses on the first year of the program, by applying relevant theoretical perspectives and scientific methods. The thesis is a scholarly piece of work. It should therefore deal with a scholarly problem, draw on scholarly literature from academic journals and research monographs, and be based on rigorous scientific methods. The focus, problem and research question of your thesis is decided in conversation with your supervisor.

## **Learning objectives:**

On completion of the thesis you are expected to be able to:

- Critically, independently and creatively identify and evaluate a scholarly problem relevant in fashion studies.
- Formulate research questions and integrate relevant knowledge in the chosen project.
- Plan and execute the task within given time frames.
- Apply relevant methodologies on the formulated questions.
- Present national and international research findings and evaluate their relevance and applicability for the project.
- Discuss and argue for your conclusions in dialogue with others.
- Critically assess and evaluate the scientific, social and ethical aspects as well as the findings of your thesis.

## **Teaching and Learning Activities**

The course consists of a combination of peer-review seminars, meetings with the supervisor, and a final seminar. First and foremost, however, the course consists of each student's own research work and writing. All coursework will be conducted in English.

For thorough information on how to write your master's thesis see the attached document titled "Guide for writing an academic thesis in Fashion studies at Stockholm University".

For the main guidance in your thesis work you should rely on your supervisor. If there is any discrepant information or unclarity coming from comments by your peers or the course coordinator, the main advice and instructions you should follow are your supervisor's.

### *Peer Review*

To further improve your writing skills, your understanding of the area of fashion studies, and your ability to provide constructive feedback, you will review written work by fellow students, and you will be given valuable feedback on your own work.

During the course there will be two compulsory peer review seminars where you will read, comment, evaluate and give written and oral feedback. Prepare between half a page and a page (A4) of typed comments and bring these along to the seminars. Base your peer review on the guidelines for writing a master thesis and particularly the attached questionnaire for thesis opposition..

The review should start with a positive comment, then identify possible shortcomings, and finally give suggestions for improvement. Bear in mind that your review should help

fellow students improve their thesis. Hence, you shall review the format, writing style, argument and analysis of the thesis rather than specific ideas expressed in it. If you dislike certain ideas, make sure that your critique is grounded in research findings and logical reasoning. Reviews may not under any circumstances be based on personal prejudice.

### *Literature*

There is no compulsory literature on the Master's thesis module. However, in order to fulfill the learning objectives outlined above and in order to achieve a passing grade on the module, it is important that you draw on scholarly literature published in academic journals and in research monographs and anthologies. It is a good idea to draw on a body of literature encountered during the previous courses at the master level.

### **Assessment**

In order to get an approved grade, you need to actively participate in two peer review seminars, present a thorough and qualified final opposition on another thesis, defend your own thesis and obtain a minimum grade of E.

- 100% of the overall grade is based on the thesis.
- Assessment is based on a criterion-referenced scale. A, B, C, D and E are approved grades. F(x) and F are failed grades. In order to obtain final approval, the course requires a minimum grade of E for the thesis and the course requirements mentioned above are met. Students who have received a passing grade (A-E) are not allowed to hand in a new version of the thesis in order to receive a higher grade.
- Students that do not meet the deadline for the final version of the thesis are allowed to hand it in at a later point in time. Note, however, that the highest possible grade to obtain for those handing in late is a D. **SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL THESIS** You will be notified of your course grade no later than one week after the last final seminar. If you receive a passing grade, you are to hand in the final version of your thesis for the archives within 5 days. If you receive the grade Fx you need to hand in necessary changes within one week after you have received notification. More information on what email address to use for the submission of the thesis will be provided in due time. **PUBLISHING YOUR THESIS IN DIVA** If you want to make your thesis available to the public – such as other students, journalist, and researchers – you can publish it in DIVA, an open access archive containing scientific publications. We highly recommend that you publish your thesis in DIVA. If you wish to do this, please upload the exact same file that you sent to the archives. Go to <http://www.sub.su.se/publish/register-in-diva.aspx> and follow the instructions. Students need to compose their written assignments so that they can be

presented electronically, if the teacher so requires. Written exams may be scanned with the tool Urkund. Possible fraud, such as plagiarism, will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee. Grading criteria: Assessment is based on a criterion-referenced scale. A, B, C, D and E are approved grades. Fx and F are failed grades. In order to obtain final approval the course requires a minimum grade of E for the written exam and that all course requirements are met.

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If you do not meet the deadline for the final exam you are allowed to hand it in at a later point in time. Note, however, that the highest possible grade to obtain for those handing in late is a D.

A	<p>An outstanding piece of work showing mastery of the subject matter. The work puts forward a most developed, logical and highly convincing argument. It is an outstanding engagement with relevant literature, and it shows a most developed and mature capability to critically analyze concepts and problems, synthesize different ideas and systematically apply relevant ideas and methods to problems and phenomena. The work is free of any error. It demonstrates an excellent originality of thought and an impressive ability to tackle questions and issues previously not encountered. Ideas are expressed with fluency, confidence and rigor. The work has been conducted with a very high degree of independence.</p>
B	<p>An excellent piece of work, showing a high degree of mastery of the subject matter. The work puts forward a highly developed, logical and convincing argument. It is an excellent engagement with relevant literature and it shows a highly developed capability to critically analyze concepts and problems, synthesize different ideas and apply relevant ideas and methods to concrete problems and phenomena. The work is free of all but very minor errors. It demonstrates some originality of thought and a good ability to tackle questions and issues previously not encountered. Ideas are expressed with clarity and confidence. However, the degree of originality and rigor required for an A is absent. The work has been conducted with a high degree of independence.</p>
C	<p>A very good piece of work, showing a sound grasp of the subject matter. The work puts forward a well-developed, consistent and logical argument. Engaging with relevant literature, it shows a capability to critically analyze concepts and problems, synthesize different ideas and systematically apply relevant ideas and methods to concrete problems and phenomena. The work is free of all but minor gaps and errors. The work shows an ability to tackle questions and issues previously not encountered. Ideas are generally expressed with clarity, with some minor exceptions. However, the originality required for a higher grade is absent. The work has mostly been conducted independently from the supervisor.</p>
D	<p>A good piece of work, showing a good grasp of the subject matter. The work puts forward a consistent and logical argument. Drawing on relevant literature, it shows</p>

	<p>some capability to critically analyze concepts and problems, synthesize different ideas and systematically apply relevant ideas and methods to concrete problems and phenomena. The work contains some gaps and errors. It shows an attempt to tackle questions and issues previously not encountered. However, the depth required for a higher grade is absent. The work has been conducted in rather close proximity to the supervisor.</p>
E	<p>A fair piece of work, showing a fairly good grasp of the subject matter. The work puts forward a fairly consistent and logical argument. Based on relevant literature, it shows an attempt to critically analyze concepts and problems, synthesize different ideas and apply relevant ideas and methods to concrete problems and phenomena. The work shows some attempt to tackle questions and issues previously not encountered. However, the work contains gaps and errors and its argument is too fragmented to fulfill the criteria for a higher grade. The work has been conducted in close proximity to the supervisor.</p>
FX	<p>The following applies to fail grades:  A piece of work that may show grasp of major elements of the subject matter. It may also be informed by some relevant literature and show limited attempts to critically analyze concepts and problems, synthesize ideas and apply relevant ideas and methods to concrete problems and phenomena. However, the work shows difficulty in beginning to tackle questions and issues previously not encountered. It contains several errors and gaps and its argument is too fragmented to fulfill the criteria to pass.</p>
F	<p>A poor piece of work, showing little knowledge of the subject matter. The work only shows very limited or no attempts to critically analyze concepts and problems, synthesize different ideas, and apply relevant ideas and method to concrete problems and phenomena, and it only draws sparingly on relevant literature in doing so. The work shows severe difficulty in beginning to tackle questions and issues previously not encountered. The level of expression and structure is inadequate. The work contains misunderstandings, gaps and errors, which means that it does not fulfill the criteria to pass. It is unlikely that work of passing standard would be produced even if the student were given the opportunity to repeat the work.  In the event of your thesis being graded as F(x), you have one opportunity to revise your thesis for the possible achievement of a passing grade. The highest possible grade to obtain for those handing in a revised version is a D.</p>

## Plagiarism

As a student you will be writing and handing different types of written tasks. It is therefore fundamental that you know that all kind of plagiarism is strictly forbidden!

Plagiarism consists of:

- Students copying from each other;
- Students copying from internet, books, articles or other sources without a clear reference;
- Students passing a work or a citation as their own when it is not;
- All kind of cut-and-paste writing strategies.
- Any incident of this kind will be reported to the Disciplinary committee of Stockholm University. In case you are found guilty you might be suspended from the University for a period of time. In order to avoid plagiarism you need to:
  - Precise your sources by referring to the author, the book and the page in question;
  - Mark that you are using someone else's words by marking it with a quotation mark;
  - Precise whose thoughts you are presenting if they are not your own;
  - Not pass your work to others. Writing your own text in your own words is part of your learning process as a student and will develop your ability to think independently and express your thoughts in speech and writing.