

Master's Programme in Global Studies



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Master's Programme in Global Studies

VID Specialized University (VID) in Stavanger offers a Master's Programme in Global Studies. It is a two-year intensive academic course of study, 120 ECTS credits. The Master's Programme in Global Studies has three different fields of specialization:

- Culture and Communication
- Religious Studies
- Global Christian Theology

Objective

The objective of the study is to enhance the professional competence (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of students preparing for careers which involve significant international and/or intercultural contact through professional education and research with particular reference to culture and communication, religious studies and global Christian theology. The study can also give students who have already been involved in international or intercultural careers and opportunity to reflect more systematically on their global experience in a scientific and methodological way leading to the attainment of academic credits for their life experiences.

Job Opportunities

The Master's Programme in Global Studies is not a preparation for a specific profession. However, the degree will prepare the students for a variety of job opportunities. It provides students with awareness, insights and tools essential in diverse cultural relations and multicultural settings in Norway and abroad. At the end of the programme the students have developed a professional appreciation of international, intercultural, and interreligious challenges in a world experiencing various effects of on-going globalization. The students will develop skills of intercultural interaction as well as cultural sensitivity, qualities of major importance in a variety of multicultural settings. International fieldwork, internships and dialogue with organizations and corporations during the studies will enhance the chance for future employment. The multicultural field is expanding in Norway, and students with a Master's Degree in Global Studies have so far been employed in a many different public and private institutions and organisations within various sectors, such as: education, counselling, oil-companies, media, churches, development work, and immigration.

Profile

VID Specialized University (VID) has developed and maintained an international profile preparing students for different positions in church and society in Norway and abroad, with a particular focus on multicultural contexts. Besides the theological programmes (Bachelor, Master's, PhD) the School offers several Bachelor programmes in Christian and Cultural Studies.

The international profile of the school is strengthened through the Master's Programme in Global Studies, and the tradition of the School is visible throughout the programme, especially during the first term, where Culture and Communication, Religious Studies, and Global Christian Theology are taught in an integrated fashion.

Learning Outcome

By the end of the Master's Programme, the candidate should have achieved the following aims:

Knowledge

The candidate

- Has achieved advanced knowledge of central theories in Global Studies, and is updated on the current research debates regarding global aspects of culture and communication, religious studies and Christian studies.
- Has thorough knowledge of various scientific methods, in particular qualitative research methods, together with good practice in academic writing.
- Has specialised insight in a limited academic field related to the topic of the Master's Thesis.

Skills

The candidate

- Can analyse and deal critically with various sources of information related to globalization processes concerning culture, communication, and religion, and can use them to structure and formulate scholarly arguments.
- Can use relevant methods for research, in particular qualitative research methods, in an independent manner.
- Can carry out an independent, limited research project related to the global cultural or religious field, under supervision and in accordance with applicable norms for research ethics.

General competence

The candidate

- Can analyse relevant academic, professional and research ethical problems related to religious and global issues.
- Can apply his/her knowledge and skills in new areas in order to carry out advanced assignments and projects related to multicultural and multireligious fields.

- Can communicate extensive independent work (orally and in writing) and masters language and terminology of the academic fields described in this document.
- Can communicate about academic issues, analyses and conclusions both with specialists and the general public.
- Can contribute to new thinking and innovation processes related to global challenges and human cooperation in multicultural and multireligious societies.

Structure

	Third term		Fourth term		
Year 2	MGS-307 Field Work (15 ECTS)	MGS-309 Field of Specialization (15 ECTS)	MGS-320 Master's Thesis (30 ECTS)		
	MGS-308 Text Studies (15 ECTS)				
	Studies in Norway or abroad approved by VID (30 ECTS)				
	First term		Second term		
Year 1	MGS-301 Encounters of Religions and Cultures (30 ECTS)		MGS-302 Approaches to Global Studies (10 ECTS)	Electives (10 ECTS)	MGS-306 Theory of Science and Research Methods (10 ECTS)
	MGS-301a Culture and Communication (10ECTS) MGS-301b Encounters of Religions (10 ECTS) MGS-301c The Christian Church in a Global Context (10 ECTS) - COL-week - Methodology seminar				

The structure of the Master's Programme is depicted in the table above. First term studies are lectured in autumn, second term studies in spring. The students may choose to start their studies either spring or autumn.

First Term

The module Encounters of Religions and Cultures consists of three courses, each of 10 ECTS credits. The three courses will be taught simultaneously as a comprehensive unit with an integrated final examination. A joint grade will be given for the whole module.

Second Term

The second term consists of three courses each of 10 ECTS credits. Each course will be evaluated independently and awarded a separate grade.

- 1) Approaches to Global Studies, where an introduction to globalization processes is given.
- 2) Electives. The students must select one of three electives, which should be chosen in order to start focussing on the discipline selected for the final Master's Thesis:
 - a) Intercultural Competence
 - b) Religion and Global Issues
 - c) Doing Theology in a Global Context.
- 3) Theory of Science and Research Methods, a course which will form a methodological basis for the research work necessary for the thesis.

The second term is important in terms of introducing the students to a theoretical approach towards global studies and helping the students towards defining their own field of specialization. The students shall as soon as possible, and no later than February 1, propose a Project Outline including a preliminary working title of the thesis. The proposal shall clarify whether the student will stay at VID or travel abroad during the third term. A member of the academic staff at VID will be appointed as a tutor before the end of the term.

Third Term

This term may, after agreement with the VID, be organized either as:

- 1) Fieldwork. The student has to conduct fieldwork for five to seven weeks and write a field report (15 ECTS), and prepare a curriculum for an oral examination within the field of specialization (15 ECTS)
- 2) Text study. The student has to write a theoretical essay (15 ECTS), and prepare a curriculum for an oral examination within the field of specialization (15 ECTS)
- 3) Study period at VID or at an accredited institution in Norway or abroad. The student follows courses at Master's level equivalent to 30 ECTS, related to the theme of the thesis. The choice of courses and institution has to be approved by the tutor of the thesis

The third term is an integrated part of the process of writing a thesis, and the sole focus of all activities during this term should be to collect data and theoretical approaches in order to prepare the writing of the thesis.

The student shall as soon as possible, and no later than 1. September submit a Project Description and sign a contract which regulates the relationship between student and tutor. The Project Description must be approved by the tutor before starting the fieldwork or text studies.

Fourth Term

This term will be fully devoted to the writing of a Master's Thesis. During the fourth term of the Master's Degree programme the student shall carry out an independent research project and write a thesis (30 ECTS credits), equivalent to one term (five months) of full time work. The Master's Thesis is given a grade from A to F.

Organizing, Study and Work Methods

Language

The language of instruction is English. The thesis and assignments may be written either in English or Norwegian.

Tutor

Every student will pursue his/her work under the supervision of a qualified tutor from the VID academic staff possessing academic competence at the doctoral level or equivalent.

Types of study

One year of study consists of ten months full time work and represents 60 ECTS credits. The number of credits for each separate module and course, together with all relevant information necessary for the student, are described in the different module and course descriptions.

Methods of teaching are lectures and seminars, different types of group work, assignments based on the individual activity of each student and on his or her ability to work independently (or in groups), creatively and critically. Context Oriented Learning (COL) will be one of the various teaching and learning methods.

Quality of Study

The quality assurance system at VID is the tool to systematize and analyse information and feedback from participants in the programme. The system shall, in predictable and structured ways give VID information in order to develop both the study and the total learning environment.

Modes of assessment – final examination

The various modes of assessment are designed to be both adequate means of assessment of the quality of the student's work and as a legal protection on behalf of the students. The different modes of assessment are developed in order to measure the learning outcome of each course and module.

The following modes of assessments will be applied during the education:

- written examination
- home examination (3-5 days)
- independent, written assignment of a certain length (Master's Thesis)
- essay (length of paper stated in number of words)
- oral examination
- written assignment or theme presentation to a group or seminar
- oral assignment or theme presentation to a group or seminar
- oral opposition/criticism of an assignment or course presentation
- compulsory attendance (however, never the sole criterion for approval of a course or module)

Please note that any plagiarism, copying, downloading from the internet or written sources without proper reference will be considered a breach of contract of the rules of examination (cf. Examination Regulation).

Grading Scale

Each individual module will be evaluated and graded with a letter-grade (A-F) or Pass/Fail according to each separate module or course description.

Symbol	Description	General, qualitative description of valuation criteria
A	Excellent	An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking.
B	Very good	A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgement and a very good degree of independent thinking.
C	Good	A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of judgement and independent thinking in the most important areas.
D	Satisfactory	A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
E	Sufficient	A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
F	Fail	A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The candidate demonstrates an absence of both judgement and independent thinking.

Requirements for Admission

To be admitted to the Master's Programme candidates must have:

1. Completed a bachelor degree, a three-year programme in which there is a major; i.e. 80-ECTS credit group, from a recognised institution of higher education, or achieved an equivalent educational basis approved by the VID. The major must be from following subjects: Cultural Studies, Religious Studies, or Christian Studies/Theology.
The student must maintain a minimum C- grade or equivalent in the 80-credit group.
2. International students should note that: All students whose first language is not English or who have not completed the major bulk of their schooling in English, can enter VID by submitting their transcripts, meeting the academic requirements and doing the following: Proof of English language competency may be shown by completing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Results should be sent directly to VID. A minimum TOEFL score of 500 or a minimum IELTS score of 5.0 is normally required.

Description of Modules and Courses

Module description

MGS-301 Encounters of Religions and Cultures

Credits: 30

Term: Fall

Module code: MGS-301

Courses: MGS-301a Culture and Communication, MGS-301b Encounters of Religion, and MGS-301c The Christian Church in a Global Context

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14/ rev. UU SAK 05/16

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Gerd Marie Ådna

Introduction:

This module gives the Master's of Global Studies Degree at VID Specialized University its particular profile both by its multi-disciplinary nature and by its specific content. The aim of the module is to develop the students' particular competence for multi-cultural and multi-religious work both internationally and nationally. Three different disciplines contribute to the illumination of the Encounters of Religions and Cultures from different perspectives: Cultural Studies/Intercultural Communication, Religious Studies, and Global Christian Studies.

Learning outcome

See the different Course Descriptions

Organization and work methods:

Lectures, seminars, and Context-Oriented Learning. Normally 80 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

The three courses are taught as a comprehensive unity. There is a compulsory interdisciplinary week during the term where the teaching method of Context Oriented Learning (COL) is applied. 80% presence is required in order to validate the COL-week.

Each student has to write two academic essays of 1500 words (+/- 10%), and one essay of 750 words (+/- 10%) intended for the newspaper debate pages. Students who do not attend the COL-week have to write three academic essays of 3000 words (+/- 10%), one within each course. Grades for the essays: Pass/Fail.

The module also contains a compulsory seminar in methodology/library science, normally 10 hours. 80% presence is required in order to validate the seminar. A multiple choice test covering central aspects of information literacy and academic writing, including knowledge of MHS guidelines for writing master's thesis <http://www.vid.no/site/assets/files/3685/misjonshogskolen-stilmal-engelsk-enedelig-versjon-identisk-med-pdf-fil.pdf>, will finalize the module. Grades: pass/fail. Students, who do

not attend the seminar with the required 80%, have to pass a more comprehensive test. Grades: pass/fail.

Assessment:

Four days interdisciplinary home examination. The essay will be given grades (A-F), and will be the final grade for the whole module.

Open for students with a right to study at MHS:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature:

Bailey, Stephen. *Academic Writing. A Handbook for International Students*. New York: Routledge, 2015. 25-30 (6 p)

Oliver, Paul. *Writing Your Thesis*. London: SAGE, 2008. Chp. 8. (11 p)

See the different Course Descriptions

Course description

Culture and Communication

Credits: 10

Term: Fall

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Tomas Sundnes Drønen

Introduction:

The aim of the course is to introduce the students to theories related to cultural analysis and intercultural communication. Cultural analysis will be based on various traditions and theoretical perspectives found in cultural and social anthropology. Topics to be covered include cultural and social change in a globalized world, culture in the interface between the local and the global, complexity and change, worldview-theory, gender, development, and gifts exchange as principles of social and cultural integration. Intercultural communication will be dealt with through a variety of approaches but will have particular focus on a semiotic approach towards communication, as well as discourse analysis. Theoretical dilemmas connected to intercultural understanding, such as othering and representation, will also be dealt with. Intercultural and interethnic encounters related to the positions of minorities versus majorities are also introduced in the course, and issues of globalization and the consequences for communication are discussed.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has thorough knowledge of theories connected to cultural analysis and intercultural communication, in particular in areas related to complexity and change, semiotics, and minority-majority issues.
- Can apply this theoretical knowledge to other areas within the academic field such as religious studies and globalization.
- Can analyze problems related to culture and communication both in foreign and domestic contexts, in particular situations related to migration, immigration and discrimination.

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Can analyze existing theories related to culture and communication and apply them on practical problems formulated as real or invented case-studies.

- Is able to recognize and describe particular discourses where cultural and ethnical backgrounds are used as elements in order to create asymmetric power relations.
- Is able to write academic essays and popular texts where culture and communication is described according to the theoretical and methodological standards required by the course.

Organization and work methods:

Lectures and group work. See also module description. Normally 24 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Each student has to write an academic essay of 1500 words (+/- 10%) on a topic provided by the lecturer.

Assessment:

See module description.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature

Books:

Holliday, Adrian, Martin Hyde og John Kullman. *Intercultural Communication. An Advanced Resource Book for Students*. 2nd Edition. London: Routledge, 2010, 1-228. (312 p)

Monaghan, John and Peter Hurst. *Social and Cultural Anthropology. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: University Press, 2000. (142 p)

Compendium:

Allen, Tim and Alan Thomas. *Poverty and Development: Into the 21st Century*. Oxford: University Press, 2000. Chp. 21 (23 p)

Dahl, Øyvind. "The Meaning Matrix: A Model for the Study of Intercultural Communication." In *Language, Culture and Identity*, ed. Torben Vestergaard, 59-70. Aalborg: Aalborg University Press, 1999. (11 p)

Dahl, Øyvind. "Models of Communication and the Golden Moment of Misunderstanding." In *Intercultural Communication – Past and Future. Selected Papers Presented at the 7th Nordic Symposium for Intercultural Communication in Turku/Åbo, 2000*, ed. Nils G. Holm and Johanna Quiroz-Schaumann, 12-22. Turku/Åbo: Åbo Akademi/Fortbildningscentralen, 2003. (10 p)

- Dahl, Øyvind. "Communication in a Globalized World". In *Aspects of Intercultural Dialogue*, ed. Nancy Aalto and Ewald Reuter, 95-107. Köln: Saxa Verlag, 2006. (12 p)
- Drønen, Tomas Sundnes. "Intercultural Communication and Religious Change – The Dii, Norwegian Missionaries and Ferdinand de Saussure." *Studia Theologica* 63 (2009): 3-18. (15 p)
- Fiske, John. *Introduction to communication Studies*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge, 1990. 39-63. (24 p)
- Friedman, Jonathan. "Being in the World: Globalization and Localization", in *Global Culture. Nationalism, Globalization and Modernity*, ed. Mike Featherstone. London: Sage Publications, 1990. (17 p)
- Gustafsson, Jan. "Culture and Interculturality as Signs and Boundaries – a Semiotic Approach." In *Bridges of Understanding. Perspectives on Intercultural Communication*, ed. Øyvind Dahl, Iben Jensen and Peter Nynäs, 59-71. Oslo: Oslo Academic Press, 2006. (12 p)
- Haynes, Jeff. *Politics in the Developing World*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008. Chp 6. (35 p)
- Hiebert, Paul G. *Transforming Worldviews. An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*. Michigan: Baker Academic, 2008. Chp. 1, 2. (57 p)
- Jensen, Iben. "The Practice of Intercultural Communication". *The Electronic Journal of Intercultural Communication*. Nr. 6 (2003). <http://www.immi.se/intercultural>. (14 p)
- Kroeber, Alfred L. "The Concept of Culture in Science". In *Anthropology in Theory: Issues in Epistemology*. 2nd Edition, ed. Henrietta L. Moore and Todd Sanders. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2014. (4 p)
- Mauss, Marcel. *The Gift*. London: Routledge Classics, 2002. Chp. 1. (24 p)
- Momsen, Janet Henshall. *Gender and Development* (2nd edition). London: Routledge, 2010. Chp. 1. (21 p)
- Saussure, Ferdinand de. *Course in General Linguistics*. Chicago, Ill: Open Court, 1986. 65-70; 106-125. (26 p)

Total amount of pages: 759

Course description

Encounters of Religions

Credits: 10

Term: Spring

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Gerd Marie Ådna

Introduction:

The course deals with different aspects of religious encounters, such as conflict, dialogue and cooperation. The following issues are included:

The teachings of religions in non-Christian religions, especially the idea of “the religious other”.

Concepts of mission strategies and conversion are seen as a particularly interesting dimension of religious encounters.

Processes of religious change are understood as corresponding with social and cultural changes and interaction between different religions and cultures, leading to knowledge about new developments in religion (e.g. spirituality, religious revivalism, medialisation, religious expression among youth, and religious relations in the public sphere).

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has thorough knowledge of the teaching of religions in non-Christian religions.
- Can analyze examples of conflict, dialogue and cooperation between different religious groups, especially majority / minority issues
- Has advanced knowledge of processes of religious change

Skills

After having completed the course, the student

- Is able to discuss some mission strategies of a particular religion and relate this discussion to the phenomenon of conversion.
- Is able to identify patterns of religious encounters leading to conflict on one hand and to dialogue and cooperation on the other hand
- Is able to analyze processes of religious change in relationship to social and cultural changes

- Is able to write an essay for a daily newspaper about a contemporary issue related to religion in the public sphere

Organization and work methods:

Lectures and group work. See also module description. Normally 24 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Each student has to write an essay of 750 words (+/- 10%) intended for the newspaper debate pages, where the topic is related to one of the themes discussed in the course.

Assessment:

See module description.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature

Books:

Ammerman, Nancy Tatom (ed.). *Everyday Religion. Observing Religious Lives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. (238 p)

Cheetham, David, Douglas Pratt and David Thomas (eds.). *Understanding Interreligious Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. (450 p)

Compendium:

Leirvik, Oddbjørn. "Islam and Christian-Muslim relations in Norway: popular realities, political and religious responses, interfaith cooperation", in *Religion and Culture. Islam in the West*, 189-210. London: Routledge, 2011.

Course description

The Christian Church in a Global Context

Credits: 10

Term: Fall

Duration: 1 term

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

The School of Mission and Theology - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:

The aim of the course is to give the students a descriptive overview and critical analysis of some main trends and aspects of the profile, works and general outreach of the Christian churches in today's global world. A special focus will be on the encounter between the churches and non-western cultures.

Learning outcome:

Knowledge

After having completed the course successfully, the candidate:

- Has thorough knowledge of the variety of expressions and interpretations of Christianity that are attested in the Christian churches in today's global world.
- Has thorough knowledge of the variety of ways in which the Christian churches encounter cultures that are lacking the Western history of integration of church and culture.

Skills

After having completed the course successfully, the candidate:

- Can apply the achieved knowledge in theoretical and practical analysis of the encounter between the Christian tradition and non-western cultures.
- Is able to write academic essays or popular texts discussing the focused topics analytically and under a critical perspective.

Organization and work methods:

Seminar groups will meet 10 times during the term.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Each student has to write an academic essay of 1500 words (+/- 10%) on a topic provided by the lecturer.

Assessment:

See module description.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.VID.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature

Books:

Kim, Sebastian and Kirsteen Kim. *Christianity as a World Religion*. London and New York: Continuum, 2008. (272 p)

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. (276 p)

Sanneh, Lamin. *Whose Religion is Christianity: The Gospel Beyond the West*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2003. (138 p)

Total amount of pages: 688 p

In addition the students have to select 50-60 pages of curriculum related to the course, which has to be approved by the responsible teacher of the course.

Course description

MGS-302 Approaches to Global Studies

Credits: 10

Term: Spring

Course code: MGS-302

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Tomas Sundnes Drønen

Introduction:

This course gives an in-depth introduction to approaches towards global studies. First of all the course introduces the students to different theories of globalization, both from a contemporary and from a historical perspective. These theories all focus on social change as a consequence of technological developments and increased interaction between institutions and individuals from different parts of the world. Particular attention will be paid to analysing globalization as a set of networks, technologies, and ideologies which affect our daily life activities, our workplace, and our current conception of time and space. The course also focuses on various impacts of these processes on particular fields such as culture, religion, identity, development, and politics of neo-colonialism.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has thorough knowledge of a variety of theories which explain how globalization has changed, and continue to change, our social surroundings.
- Can apply this theoretical knowledge to related academic fields such as cultural and religious studies.
- Can analyze problems dealing with global change and relate the theory to consequences for the individual and the multicultural workplace.

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Can analyze existing theories related to globalization and apply them on practical problems formulated as real or invented case-studies.
- Is able to recognize consequences of global change and propose practical solutions in order to relate to and implement such changes at a future workplace.

- Is able to write academic essays and popular texts where globalization and social change is described according to the theoretical and methodological standards required by the course.

Organization and work methods:

Lectures and group work with presentations. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

The class will be divided into groups which have to prepare and present part of the curriculum for the rest of the class. The presentation should last approximately 20 minutes and be followed by a discussion in the class. The group then together writes an academic essay of 2500 words (+/- 10%) to be handed in to the lecturer. Students who do not take part in the group work will have to write two essays of 2000 words (+/- 10%) based on parts of the course curriculum. All essays will be evaluated with the grades pass/fail by the lecturer.

Assessment:

Written examination of four hours with the grades A-F.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature

Books:

Held, David and Anthony McGrew. *Globalization/Anti-globalization: Beyond the Great Divide*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007. (283 s)

Scholte, Jan Aart. *Globalization: a critical introduction*. 2nd ed., 1-275. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2005. (275 s)

Compendium:

Barber, Benjamin. "Jihad vs. McWorld." In *The Globalization Reader 3 ed.*, ed. Lechner and Boli, 32-38. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008. (7 s)

Drønen, Tomas Sundnes. "Africa and Religion in a Globalised World." In *Pentecostalism, Globalisation and Islam in Northern Cameroon. Megachurches in the Making?*, 13-36 Leiden: BRILL, 2013. (23 s)

Jenkins, Philip. "The Christian Revolution." In *The Globalization Reader 3ed*, ed. Lechner and Boli, 379-386. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008. (7 s)

- King, Sallie. "A Global Ethic in the Light of Comparative Religious Ethics." In *Explorations in Global Ethics: Comparative Religious Ethics and Interreligious Dialogue*, ed. Sumner B. Twiss and Bruce Grelle, 118-140. Boulder: Westview Press, 2000. (23 s)
- Leirvik, Oddbjørn. "Liberal and Conservative Responses to Globalisation: the Case of the Norwegian Pentecostal Missionary Aril Edvardsen." In *The Power of Faiths in Global Politics*, ed. Sturla J. Stålsett and Oddbjørn Leirvik with Peter Beyer, 165-170. Oslo: Novus Press, 2004. (5 s)
- Marshall-Fratani, Ruth. "Mediating the Global and Local in Nigerian Pentecostalism." In *Between Babel and Pentecost. Traditional Pentecostalism in Africa and Latin America*, ed. Corten and Marshall-Fratani, 80-105. London: Hurst, 2001. (26 s)
- Roy, Olivier. "Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah." In *The Globalization Reader 3ed*, ed. Lechner and Boli, 364-369. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008. (6 s)
- Schirato, Tony and Jen Webb. "The Global Subject and Culture". In *Understanding Globalization*, 131-160. London: SAGE, 2003. (30 s)
- Stiglitz, Joseph E. "Globalism's Discontent." In *The Globalization Reader 3ed*, ed. Lechner and Boli, 208-215. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008. (8 s)
- The Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2013. United Nations.
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/report-2013/mdg-report-2013-english.pdf> (60 s)
- Walzer, Michael, 1994. "Moral Minimalism." In *Thick and Thin: Moral Argument at Home and Abroad*, 1-19. Notre Dame, Ind.: NDUP, 1994. (20 s)
- Total amount of pages: 773
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Course description

MGS-303 Intercultural Competence

Credits: 10

Term: Spring

Course code: MGS-303

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Tomas Sundnes Drønen

Introduction:

This course gives an in-depth introduction to central terms and principles within the discipline Intercultural communication. The theoretical tools presented belong to a multidisciplinary tradition inherited from: Hermeneutics, linguistics, semiotics, social anthropology, and social psychology. The course relates intercultural communication to several professional traditions such as teaching, management, migration, development studies, health, conflict management and international business.

The main goal of the course is to increase the level of intercultural competence among the students. In order to reach this goal the course will guide the students through theories which describe how understanding and meaning are created in different cultural contexts. This perspective is deepened through engagement in practical case studies related to multicultural workplaces and includes themes such as practice theory, power-relations, stereotypes and prejudices.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has thorough knowledge of theories which connects hermeneutics and cultural analysis to practical aspects of intercultural communication.
- Can apply this theoretical knowledge to other areas within the academic field such as power-relations, stereotypes and prejudices.
- Can analyze problems dealing with culture and communication and relate the theory to the multicultural workplace.

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Can apply theories related to hermeneutics and communication on practical problems formulated as real or invented case-studies.
- Is able to evaluate different levels of intercultural competence, and improve communication in multicultural settings through a conscious focus on themes discussed during the course.
- Is able to write academic essays and popular texts where hermeneutics and the multicultural workplace are described according to the theoretical and methodological standards required by the course.

Organization and work methods:

Seminar groups will normally meet 10 times during the term.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Each student has to write three academic essays of 1000 words (+/- 10%) on topics provided by the lecturer. Each student will have to present at least two of the essays to the rest of the group for discussion, and has to be respondent to at least two essays written by other students. Students who do not present their essays in the seminar will have to write three essays of 2000 words (+/- 10%). All essays will be evaluated with the grades pass/fail by the lecturer.

Assessment:

Oral examination with grades A-F.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature

Books:

Blasco, Maribel and Jan Gustafsson. *Intercultural alternatives: critical perspectives on intercultural encounters in theory and practice*, 19-215. [Copenhagen]: Copenhagen Business School Press, 2004. (196 p)

Byram, Michaël. *Teaching and assessing intercultural communicative competence*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 1997. (124 p)

Dahl, Øyvind, Iben Jensen and Peter Nynäs (eds.). *Bridges of Understanding. Perspectives on Intercultural Communication*, Oslo: Oslo Academic Press, 2006. (280 p)

Compendium:

Gadamer, Hans-Georg. *Truth and method*, 265-307. New York: Continuum, 1989. (42 p)

Roy, Abhik and William J. Starosta. "Hans-Georg Gadamer, language, and Intercultural Communication". *Language and Intercultural Communication* vol. 1 (2001): 6-20. (14 p)

Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1973, 3-30. (27 p)

Bennett, Milton J. "Intercultural Communication. A Current Perspective." In *Basic concepts of Intercultural communication. Selected readings*, ed. Milton J. Bennett, 1-34. Yarmouth, CA: Intercultural Press, 1998. (32 p)

Dahl, Øyvind. "The Problem of Meaning in Intercultural Communication." In *Conflicting Values: An Intercultural Challenge*. Selected papers from the 1999 NIC Symposium in Oslo, ed. Maria Isaksson and Felicia A. Røkaas, 133-141. Oslo: Norwegian School of Management BI. Department of Communication, Culture and Language, 2000. (8 p)

Dahl, Øyvind. "The Dynamics of Communication". In *The Intercultural perspective in a multicultural world: 11th NIC-conference*, ed. Eilef Gard and Birte Simonsen, 27-46. Kristiansand: Universitetet i Agder, 2008. (19 p)

Hall, Edward T. "The Power of Hidden Differences." In *Basic concepts of Intercultural communication. Selected readings*, ed. Milton J. Bennett, 53-66. Yarmouth, CA: Intercultural Press, 1998. (13 p)

Total amount of pages: 748 p.

Course description

MGS-304 Religion and Global Issues

Credits: 10

Term: Spring

Course code: MGS-304

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Gerd Marie Ådna

Introduction:

The course integrates perspectives from the disciplines of Science of Religion and Sociology of Religion as it deals with social, migrational and ethical aspects of religion and spirituality and the roles they play in modernity. The course introduces and discusses general concepts, principles and structures of the field Religion and Global issues in a modern medialised context. A special attention will be given to questions related to hybrid identities, complex diaspora communities and transformations, gender and multiculturalism.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has thorough knowledge of selected theories about religion in society, (Durkheim, Weber and Bourdieu).
- Has advanced knowledge of how and why religion is transformed through migration and changing economic conditions.
- Has thorough knowledge of how and why gender roles and the balance between old and young change in transnational communities.

Skills

After having completed the course, the student

- Is able to analyze and discuss the relevance of religion with regards to migration and global issues in a medialised world.
- Is able to discuss critically the role of religion in making communities and moral fellowships.
- Is able to develop attitudes of respect and tolerance towards different religious and cultural expressions.
- Is able to write a popular essay about religion and migration with examples from his/her home culture.

Organization and work methods:

Seminar groups will meet 10 times during the term.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Each student has to write three academic essays of 1000 words (+/- 10%) on topics provided by the lecturer. Each student will have to present at least two of the essays to the rest of the group for discussion, and has to be respondent to at least two essays written by other students. Students who do not present their essays in the seminar will have to write three essays of 2000 words (+/- 10%). All essays will be evaluated with the grades pass/fail by the lecturer.

Assessment:

Oral examination with grades A-F.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature

Books:

Knott, Kim and Seán McLoughlin (eds.). *Diasporas. Concepts, Intersections, Identities*, 1-171. London and New York: Zed Books, 2010. Plus 50 pages in the third part according to field of interest. (230 p)

Turner, Bryan S. *Religion and Modern Society. Citizenship, Secularisation and the State*, viii–xxvii; 3–297. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. (315 p)

Vertovec, Steven. *Transnationalism*, 1-163. London and New York: Routledge, 2009. (164 p)

Total amount of pages: 709 p.

Course description

MGS-305 Doing Theology in a Global Context

Credits: 10

Term: Spring

Course code: MGS-305

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Knut Holter

Introduction:

The aim of the course is to give the students a descriptive overview and critical analysis of some main theological challenges and concerns in relation to the contemporary globalizing situation. A special focus will be on the encounter of the churches with non-Christian religions.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course successfully, the candidate:

- Has thorough knowledge of some main theological challenges and concerns in relation to the contemporary globalizing situation.
- Has thorough knowledge of ways in which the churches encounter non-Christian religions.

Skills

After having completed the course successfully, the candidate:

- Can apply the achieved knowledge in theoretical and practical analysis of the theological challenges and concerns facing the churches today, with particular attention to encounter between of the churches with non-Christian religions.
- Is able to write academic essays or popular texts discussing the focused topics analytically and under a critical perspective.

Organization and work methods:

Seminar groups will normally meet 10 times during the term.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Each student has to write three academic essays of 1000 words (+/- 10%) on topics provided by the lecturer. Each student will have to present at least two of the essays to the rest of the group for discussion, and has to be respondent to at least two essays written by other students. Students who do not present their essays in the seminar will have to write three essays of 2000 words (+/- 10%). All essays will be evaluated with the grades pass/fail by the lecturer.

Assessment:

Oral examination with grades A-F.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature

Books:

Holter, Knut and Louis C. Jonker (eds.). *Global Hermeneutics? Reflections and Consequences*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010. Full text: <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/JONKER~1.PDF>, 1-93. (93 p)

Levison, John R. and Priscilla Pope-Levison. *Return to Babel: Global Perspectives on the Bible*, 1-9; 27-157. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999. (139 p)

Sanneh, Lamin. *Disciples of All Nations: Pillars of World Christianity*, 1-287. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. (287 p)

Yung, Hwa. *Mangoes or Bananas? The Quest for an Authentic Asian Christian Theology*, 61-242. Oxford: Regnum Books International, 1997. (182 p)

Compendium:

McGrath, Alister E. (ed.). *The Christian Theology Reader*. Fourth edition, 445-463; 605-642. Malden: Blackwell, 2007. (55 p)

Total amount of pages: 756 p.

Course description

MGS-306 Theory of Science and Qualitative Research Methods

Credits: 10

Term: Spring

Course code: MGS-306

Language of instruction: English

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Marianne Skjortnes

Introduction:

This course gives an introduction to core problems in theory of science, enabling students to discuss philosophical, methodological and ethical dimensions of research and consequences of research-choices. The students will especially be introduced to the various methods of enquiry and interpretation used in qualitative research, in order to prepare them for fieldwork related to a selected topic. The course explores the relation between research design and research methods with the aim of introducing students to good research practice. Students will learn how to collect data using different methods, such as interviewing, focus groups, participant observation and web-based data acquisition. The students will also acquire basic knowledge of historical and contemporary methods within textual and documentary analysis. The course introduces students to various analytical perspectives, such as cultural analysis, discourse analysis and critical analysis, as well as examples of different approaches and processes of data analysis.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has general knowledge of central problems in theory of science and their relevance for qualitative research methodology.
- Has acquired thorough knowledge of different methods for collecting and recording qualitative data.
- Has knowledge of various analytical perspectives and the use of analysis in qualitative research and documentary studies.

- Has knowledge about the guidelines for research ethics in the social sciences, law and the humanities (NESH).

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Can apply general knowledge of theory of science in qualitative research.
- Is able to conduct analysis of empirical and documentary material.
- Is able to use various methods in order to carry out fieldwork, establish and organize relevant data.
- Is able to apply research ethical norms and guidelines to qualitative research practice.

Organization and work methods:

Lectures and seminar presentations. Normally 20 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

1. Each student has to write a methodological essay of 1500 words (+/- 10%) related to the future topic of the master thesis.
2. Each student shall carry out a short fieldwork and present a written report based on methodological reflections and results.

Assessment:

Written examination of four hours with the grades A-F.

Open for students with a right to study at MHS:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to take the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Literature

Books:

In English:

Hammersley, Martyn and Paul Atkinson. *Ethnography – Principle in Practice* (3rd ed.). London: Routledge, 2007. (266 p)

Or in Norwegian:

Hammersley, Martyn and Paul Atkinson. *Feltmetodikk: Grunnlaget for feltarbeid og feltforskning*. Oslo: Ad Notam Gyldendal, 2006. (319 p)

Okasha, Samir. *Philosophy of science. A very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. (139 p)

Compendium:

Atkinson, Paul and Amanda Coffey. "Analysing Documentary Realities". In *Qualitative Research. Issues of Theory, Method and Practice*, ed. David Silverman (3rd ed.). London: Sage, 2011. (16 p)

Briggs, Jean. "Kapluna Daughters". In *Women in the Field. Anthropological Experiences*, ed. Peggy Golde. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986. (25 p)

Bryman, Alan: "The Debate about Quantitative and Qualitative Research." In *Qualitative Research*, vol. I, ed. Alan Bryman and Robert Burgess, 35-69. London: Sage Publications, 1999. (34 p)

Drønen, Tomas Sundnes. "Anthropological Historical Research in Africa: How Do We Ask?" in *History in Africa* 33 (2006): 137-153. (16 p)

Kvale, Steinar and Svend Brinkmann. *Interviews. Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing* (3rd ed.), chp. 6-8. Los Angeles: Sage, 2014. (62 p)

Lakoff, George and Mark Johnson. *Metaphors we live by*, 3-24. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2003. (21 p)

Markham, Annette N. "Internet Research". In *Qualitative Research. Issues of Theory, Method and Practice*, ed. David Silverman (3rd ed.). London: Sage, 2011. (18 p)

Prior, Lindsay. "Using Documents in Social Research". In *Qualitative Research. Issues of Theory, Method and Practice*, ed. David Silverman (3rd ed.). London: Sage, 2011. (18 p)

Silverman, David. *Interpreting Qualitative Data. A Guide to the Principles of Qualitative Research* (5th ed.), chp. 5-6. Los Angeles: Sage, 2014. (54 p)

www.etikkom.no/English/NESH/guidelines/

www.etikkom.no/retningslinjer/NESHretningslinjer

<http://www.nsd.uib.no/personvern/om/english.html>

Total amount of pages: ca. 750 p.

Course description

MGS-307 Fieldwork

Credits: 15

Term: Fall or spring

Module code: MGS-307

Language of instruction: English or Norwegian

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Marianne Skjortnes

Introduction:

This course is a specialization preparing the student for the thesis work. The content of the course must be related to at least one of the following subjects: Culture and Communication, Religious Studies or Global Christian Theology.

Before the collection of data in the third term all students have to:

1. Attend a seminar during the second term of the programme, conducted by some of the tutors giving guidelines related to choosing a relevant topic for the thesis.
2. Write a Project Description (2500 words +/-10%) that covers central methodological and theoretical challenges related to the specific topic chosen for his or her thesis. The Project Description is compulsory and must be approved by VID before starting the fieldwork.
3. Register the project at www.NSD.no (Norsk samfunnsvitenskapelig datatjeneste).

The student then starts the collection of data through fieldwork, in Norway or abroad, related to the chosen theme of the thesis. The student is responsible for the practical organization of the work. The field work has a normal length of five to seven weeks and is evaluated by a field report of 4500 words (+/- 10%).

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has acquired an understanding of his/her own capacities for the collection and recording of data.
- Has knowledge to understand key issues of method and theory, and to understand the practical implications of different methods.
- Has acquired understanding of how to apply qualitative research methodology to specialized insights in a limited area.

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Will have achieved experience and practical competence in qualitative research methods and tools.
- Has the ability to carry out fieldwork related to a selected topic.
- Has acquired skills in understanding and doing qualitative fieldwork and has become familiar with data collection and organisation of fieldwork data.
- Is able to apply research ethical norms and guidelines to qualitative research practice.

Organization and work methods:

One seminar conducted by VID teachers will give the students the opportunity to discuss the writing of the Project Description during the first weeks of the third term.

A second seminar conducted by VID teachers will discuss the outcome of the fieldwork and guide the students towards writing the field report. The students are expected to prepare a presentation describing their experiences from fieldwork for this seminar.

The student must discuss the Project Description, the interview guide and the practical aspects of the fieldwork with the appointed tutor. The tutoring equivalent is five hours, tutoring and reading included.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

The student has to write a Project Description (2500 words +/-10%) that covers central methodological and theoretical challenges related to the specific topic chosen for his or her thesis. The description must contain the following elements:

- Motivation for selecting the topic in question
- A description of central and relevant research questions
- A brief presentation of central methodological challenges connected to the fieldwork
- A brief presentation of central theoretical perspectives to be explored with some references to research conducted on the theme

- A realistic schedule for the completion of the project
- A preliminary list of chapters for the thesis

Grades: Pass/Fail.

Assessment:

The student has to write a field report of 4500 words (+/- 10%). The report must contain the following elements:

- A brief presentation of the topic of the thesis
- Central methodological challenges related to the project
- Reflections upon the fieldwork related to the literature describing qualitative research methods
- Reflections related to own situatedness in the field
- Reflections related to relevant theoretical perspectives
- Reflections related to things that went well, and things that went wrong during the fieldwork
- A brief presentation of some findings from the field

Grades: Pass/Fail

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Course description

MGS-308 Text Studies

Credits: 15

Term: Fall or spring

Module code: MGS-308

Language of instruction: English or Norwegian

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:

This course is a specialization preparing the student for the thesis work. The content of the course must be related to at least one of the following subjects: Culture and Communication, Religious Studies or Global Christian Theology.

Before the collection of data in the third term all students shall:

1. Attend a seminar during the second term of the programme, conducted by some of the tutors giving guidelines related to choosing a relevant topic for the thesis.
2. Write a Project Description (2500 words +/-10%) that covers central methodological and theoretical challenges related to the specific topic chosen for his or her thesis. This Project Description is compulsory and must be approved by VID before starting the text studies.

The student then starts the collection of data through text studies, at VID or at an institution in Norway or abroad, approved by VID, related to the chosen theme of the thesis. The student is responsible for the practical organization of the work. The course is evaluated by an academic essay of 4500 words (+/- 10%), covering central theoretical or historical/contextual aspects of the thesis. The student has to select 1000 pages (+/- 10%) of relevant literature for the course, which has to be approved by the tutor of the thesis.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has acquired an understanding of his/her own capacities for the collection and analysis of data.
- Has knowledge to understand key issues of theory and/or contextual/historical aspects of a limited academic area.
- Has acquired understanding of how to apply different analytical approaches towards a text.

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has achieved experience and practical competence in text related research methods and analysis.
- Has the ability to carry out textual analysis related to a selected topic.
- Has acquired skills in understanding and doing textual analysis and has become familiar with data collection and organisation of data analysis.

Organization and work methods:

One seminar conducted by VID teachers during the first week of the third term will give the students the opportunity to discuss the writing of the Project Description.

A second seminar conducted by VID teachers will discuss theoretical challenges in the different projects guide the students towards writing the academic essays. The students are expected to prepare a presentation describing their theoretical challenges for this seminar.

The student will be appointed a tutor with whom she/he will be able to discuss the Project Description, selection of texts and different analytical approaches towards the texts. The tutoring equivalents five hours, tutoring and reading included.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

The student has to write a Project Description (2500 words +/-10%) that covers central methodological and theoretical challenges related to the specific topic chosen for his or her thesis.

The description must contain the following elements:

- Motivation for selecting the topic in question
- A description of central and relevant research questions
- A brief presentation of central methodological challenges connected to the text studies
- A brief presentation of central theoretical questions to be explored with some references to research conducted on the theme
- A realistic schedule for the completion of the project
- A preliminary list of chapters for the thesis

Grades: Pass/Fail.

Assessment:

The student has to write an academic essay of 4500 words (+/- 10%), covering central theoretical or historical/contextual aspects of the thesis. Grades: Pass/Fail

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Course description

MGS-309 Field of Specialization

Credits: 15

Term: Spring or Fall

Course code: MGS-312

Language of instruction: English or Norwegian

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Gerd Marie Ådna

Introduction:

This course is a specialization preparing the student for the thesis work. The content of the course must be related to at least one of the following subjects: Culture and Communication, Religious Studies or Global Christian Theology.

This course builds on earlier specialization on Master's level on the topic chosen for the Master's Thesis, and one of the following courses must have been completed:

- MGS-xxx Fieldwork
- MGS-xxx Text Studies
- Or relevant specialization studies (15 ETCS) from VID or another institution in Norway or abroad, approved by the VID.

The student has to select 1000 pages (+/- 10%) of relevant literature for the course, which has to be approved by the tutor of the thesis. The selected curriculum should cover central theoretical or historical/contextual aspects of the thesis, but would normally cover more general background information necessary for the thesis than the course MGS-xxx Text Studies.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has acquired an understanding of his/her own capacities for the collection and analysis of background data for writing a Master's Thesis.
- Has knowledge to understand key issues of theory and/or contextual/historical aspects of a limited academic area.
- Has acquired understanding of how to apply different analytical approaches towards a text.

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has achieved experience and practical competence in text related research methods and analysis.
- Has the ability to carry out textual analysis related to a selected topic.
- Has the ability to express academic knowledge related to a selected topic orally.

Organization and work methods:

One seminar conducted by VID teachers will discuss the selection of literature and guide the students towards analyzing the texts and prepare the students for the oral examination. Students are expected to prepare a presentation of their topic for this seminar.

The student will be appointed a tutor with whom she/he will be able to discuss the selection of literature and different analytical approaches towards the texts. The total tutoring equivalents five hours.

Assessment:

Oral examination of approximately 30 minutes covering the curriculum selected by the student.
Grades: Pass/Fail.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.

Course description

MGS-320 Master's Thesis

Credits: 30

Term: Spring or Fall

Course code: MGS-320

Language of instruction: English or Norwegian

Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University - MHS

Responsible lecturer: Gerd Marie Ådna

Introduction:

During the study of the Master's Degree programme the student shall carry out an independent research project and write a Master's Thesis of 30 ECTS credits, which is one term's work.

The thesis must be related to the work in the third term related to at least one of the following subjects: Culture and Communication, Religious Studies or Global Christian Theology.

The selection of the topic of the thesis must be done in agreement with the tutor appointed to the student by the VID administration. A member of the academic staff at VID will normally be appointed as a tutor.

The student shall inform VID of his/her fields of specialization during the first part of the second term, and VID must evaluate the topic, taking into account the tutor capacity of the school, before approving it.

The student shall as soon as possible, and no later than during the first weeks of the third term, elaborate a Project Description that outlines the preliminary work title, research problem, current research, chosen methodology and theories, the need for data collection, outline for analysis, etc. This Project Description must be approved by the VID before writing the thesis.

The length of the thesis should be 28.000 words (+/- 10%). It has to be written with 1.5 line spacing and 12-point size of character [*Times New Roman*] with 2.54 cm margins.

The thesis should be submitted to VID Specialized University in four copies (two unbound and two bound copies) and one numeric version sent to the VID administration. One printed copy and the numeric version will be made available for the public through the VID library.

The thesis shall demonstrate the student's ability to do independent, professional, research-based work.

Master's thesis shall be written in Norwegian or English. Other languages are exceptions and may be granted on special applications.

VID will announce the deadline for submitting the thesis in the course of the term.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has acquired an understanding of his/her own capacities for collecting data, analyzing data, and writing a Master's Thesis.
- Has knowledge to understand key issues of theory and/or contextual/historical aspects of a limited academic area.
- Has acquired understanding of how to apply different analytical approaches towards a text and combine them with personal analysis and reflections.

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has achieved experience and practical competence in text related research methods and analysis.
- Has the ability to carry out textual analysis related to a selected topic.
- Is able to express advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge through academic writing.
- Is able to plan, carry out, and complete a large academic project.

Organization and work methods:

The student will be appointed a tutor with whom she/he will be able to discuss the selection of literature and different analytical approaches towards the project. The tutoring should contain the following elements:

- Both student and tutor signs the Master's Thesis contract
- Together they elaborate a detailed plan for the project including an estimated deadline for the different chapters
- Normally the student and the tutor meet four to six times during the project. Meetings can also take place through the internet, if this is agreed upon by both parties
- The total tutoring, which includes both meetings and the tutor's reading of the text equivalents twenty hours
- The tutoring-process normally ends one week before the deadline for the submission of the thesis.

Assessment:

Submission of Master's Thesis. Grades: A-F.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:

The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.vid.no).

Student's evaluation:

Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student's evaluation.