



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

10th semester, Human Centered Informatics, Copenhagen

Semester description

Semester details

School: School of Communication, Art and Technology (CAT)

Study board: Communication and Digital Media

Study regulations:

http://www.fak.hum.aau.dk/digitalAssets/109/109590_ba_kommunikationogdigitalemedier_2015_hum_aau.dk.pdf

Semester framework theme

10th semester does not have a definite thematic framework . It is expected that students relate to the themes and issues that have been part of the entire communications program. The student chooses the topic within the academic framework. The learning objectives as well as practical skills are therefore directed at theories and methods within the chosen area as well as in information technology subject area in general.

The academic progress is achieved through a special focus on the thesis as a research activity , as well as by a strengthening of the thesis for scientific scrutiny. This is done according to the module's goal of academic skills in ' theories and methods ' and ' the discipline of science ' and practice skills including in ' independently and systematically to provide an overview of existing knowledge for the thesis problem ' and ' independently and systematically be able to identify , explain and argue for science theoretical approach , theories and methods in relation thesis problem ' .

Semester organisation and time schedule

Semester organization is centered on two main activities , thesis supervision and thesis under the aid -de teaching . As part of the training offered mediation and support in the establishment of cooperative groups.

Thesis supervision :

The guidelines shall ensure that the student is offered a sparring of high scientific quality in the thesis selected topic / subject area . Guide shall also ensure that the students receive feedback on the thesis theory, methodology and analysis, and on the thesis of structural factors .

Thesis Supportive teaching :

It offers specialty supportive teaching . Thesis seminar is designed with the aim of supporting tea writing process and to inspire the students to write a thesis of high quality , which is scientifically based. The course consists of a series of seminars focusing on practical , theoretical, methodological and struc - tural issues relevant to the thesis process.

Cooperative Groups:

It offers an opportunity for the dissemination of collaboration across the individual specialisms . The scheme is primarily intended as an offer to the students , who writes a thesis alone.

Semester coordinator and secretariat assistance

Anchorperson: Anders Drachen

Secretarial assistance: *Karen Greve Holm*

Module description: “Master’s Thesis”**“Master’s Thesis”**

30 ECTS equals 825 working hours

Location

10th semester

Module coordinator

Anders Drachen

Type and language

Master’s thesis
English

Objectives

In the Master’s thesis module, the student will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- the theories, methods and technologies of the selected subject area at the highest international level
- research ethics and understanding of the implications of research work
- the theory of science of the selected thesis topic

Skills in:

- applying methods, theories and technologies pertaining to a specific issue within the academic area
- creating an independent and systematic overview of relevant existing knowledge within the topic of the thesis
- independently selecting approaches pertaining to the topic of the thesis on the basis of theory of science, theory, methods, analysis, design and/or technology, and substantiating these academic choices and priorities
- applying, further developing and critically reflecting on relevant theories, methods and technologies pertaining to the topic of the thesis

Competences in:

- critical reflection on the disciplinary area pertaining to the chosen topic of the thesis
- independent and systematic search for knowledge, choosing and explaining this choice and planning and undertaking the research of the topic of the thesis

- arguing for choices as regards the applied theories, methods and technologies as well as choices as regards any empirical material and/or design aspects
- structuring and communicating the acquired knowledge in a suitable manner as regards content and language register to an academic audience within the disciplinary field of the programme.

Academic content and conjunction with other modules/semesters

The Master's thesis module comprises preparation of a Master's thesis on a subject which the student is free to select from within the disciplinary framework of the programme. The thesis may be written as either a theoretically, methodologically or analytically oriented thesis, or it may be oriented towards practical and constructive ICT solutions on the basis of theory and method.

The topic of the Master's thesis must be approved by the Study Board. The topic must be presented to the Study Board in the shape of a synopsis comprising a preliminary problem formulation, argumentation for the relevance of the topic and for the theoretical and methodological points of departure, a preliminary bibliography and time schedule, including a submission deadline.

The module includes a number of thesis seminars. Additionally, students will be offered expert thesis supervision in relation with their problem oriented thesis work.

Scope and expected performance

30 ECTS

Participants

10th semester students

Prerequisites for participation

As per the study guide.

Module activities (course sessions etc.)

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Seminar/ workshop	Masters Seminar 10th semester 2015	Time
1. seminar	1. Introduction: what is a master's thesis? (1 h) Mette Marie Roslyng/Anders Drachen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction and overview - Formalities - Planning the masters process - The writing process - 2. Focus and problem statement (2 h workshop) Mette Marie Roslyng	2+1 hours in week 6 (feb)

	<p>The students will have an opportunity to provide and receive feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The focus of the thesis and professional inquiry - The basis for the thesis: societal impact and academic relevance - The thesis as an academic argument - The problem statement: different types and levels, theoretical and science philosophical foundations <p>Litterature: P. S. Jørgensen og L. Rienecker (2011), <i>Specielt om specialer</i>, Frederiksberg: Samfundslitteratur: kap 7</p> <p>S. Hegelund (2000), <i>Akademisk Argumentation</i>, Frederiksberg: Samfundslitteratur</p> <p>Equivalent English literature for example: Lovitts, B. and Wert, E. (2009). <i>Developing Quality Dissertations in the Social Sciences: A Graduate Student's Guide to Achieving Excellence</i>. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.</p>	
	<p>Theory of Science (2h) Helle Karoff</p> <p>(Se f.eks. Jörg Zeller 2011, <i>Information, Medie, Kommunikation - en faglig videnskabsteori</i>, Aalborg: Aalborg Universitetsforlag.)</p>	2 hours in week 6 (feb)
2. seminar	<p>The Literature Review (2h) v/Mette Marie Roslyng</p> <p>We are working with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theoretical positioning - Theory critique - Focus of philosophy of science - Literature reviews - Literature searches <p>Litteratursøgning (1h) AAUB (AAU Library Copenhagen)</p>	3 hours in week 6 (feb)
3. seminar	<p>Networking and graduate career management Anders Drachen</p>	3 hours in Week 7 (feb)
4. seminar	<p>Writing Workshop v/Annette Hoffskov</p> <p>s. 249-169, fra <i>The Craft of Research</i>, af Wayne Booth (2008, University of Chicago Press).</p>	4 hours in Week 12 (mar)

5. seminar	<p>Data Analysis Anders Drachen og Mette Marie Roslyng</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validity, reliability, generalizability og quantitative and qualitative data • Qualitative analysis via coding • nVivo • Data quality and data-driven conclusions <p>Bordens & Abbott, Research Design and Methods, 8th ed., 2011, McGraw Hill, chapter 5</p> <p>Miles & Hubermann - TBA</p> <p>nVivo – AAU has a site licence. Students will install software before the classes.</p>	3*2 hours in Week 15 (apr)
6. seminar	<p>Conclusion workshop (3) Mette Marie Roslyng</p> <p>The students will be given the opportunity to work with their theses, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion: focus on content and purpose The red thread: focus on creating coherence between the parts of the thesis Promoting the main argument Academic contributions: focus on originality and contribution to the field of research. <p>Literature: P. S. Jørgensen og L. Rienecker (2011), <i>Specielt om specialer</i>, Frederiksberg: Samfundslitteratur: kap 10</p> <p>Equivalent English literature: Lovitts, B. and Wert, E. (2009). Developing Quality Dissertations in the Social Sciences: A Graduate Student's Guide to Achieving Excellence. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.</p> <p>Summary and Q&A (1) Anders Drachen/Mette Marie Roslyng</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalities around the thesis hand-in • Q&A 	4+2*1 hours in week 18 (may)

Examination

Examination 8

An external oral examination in: **“Master’s Thesis”**

The examination will be conducted as a conversation between the student(s) and the examiner and external examiner on the basis of a Master’s thesis prepared by one or a number of students. The Master’s thesis will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. The Master’s thesis and the conversation must demonstrate that each student fulfils the objectives for the module

stated above as regards knowledge, skills and competences.

The Master's thesis, including a one-two page summary in a foreign language (see below), forms the basis of the examination and assessment, and a combined grade will be awarded for the Master's thesis and the oral performance.

Summary: A summary of no less than one page and no more than two pages in Danish or English must be included.

Total number of pages: The Master's thesis must comprise no less than 35 pages, and must not exceed 70 pages per student, or 80 pages if prepared individually.

Normal duration of examination: 45 minutes; if two students, 75 minutes; and if three students, 100 minutes.

Evaluation: grading according to the 7-point scale.

Credits: 30 ECTS

The examination must substantiate that each student fulfils the objectives for the module.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded to students who give an excellent performance and demonstrate that they have fulfilled the objectives for the subject exhaustively or with only few insignificant omissions.