



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

Spring 2017

10th semester, Information Studies, 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/107/107906_ma_human_centred_informatics_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 structural 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

Anchor person: Rikke Magnussen

Secretarial assistance: *Karen Greve Holm*

Information

Evaluation:

Studienævnet bør nok være lidt opmærksom på om de studerende føler sig velinformeret, semestret igennem, da 27% er meget uenig i det samt om de fysiske ramme (lokaler) for de studerende er gode, da 27% også er meget uenig i det.

Tidligere udmelding af eksamensplan.

Censorberetninger

I censorindberetningen er der udelukkende tilfredshed med eksamenshandlingen og drøftelsen med eksaminatorer og derfor ingen kommentarer til disse.

Der er dog kommentarer til et lavt fagligt niveau hos to studerende. Det drejer sig om to internationale studerende.

Man bør være opmærksom på både optagelseskrav og på muligheder for at blive opmærksom på fagligt meget svage studerende før den endelige specialeeksamen. En mulighed er eksamen i modulet Research Methodology. Begge omtalte studerende dumpede prøven 2 gange, men kom igennem ved 3. forsøg bl.a. efter anbefaling fra vejledere. Det foreslås, at 3. omprøve ikke er baseres på vejledergodkendelse, og at der ikke gives dispensation 4. gang som det er set i nogle tilfælde.

Module description: “Master’s Thesis”

“Master’s Thesis”

30 ECTS equals 825 working hours

Location

10th semester

Module coordinator

Rikke Magnussen

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.)

Literature

	Mandatory lit. no of pages.	Additional. lit. no of pages.	Dig. Upload*

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.

Literature foundation: 3000 standard pages supervisor approved, self-selected literature related to the Master Thesis.

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.

10. SEMESTER FÆLLES F17 (KDM_KA_KOMMUNIKATION_CPH, KDM_KA_INFORMATIONSVIDENSKAB_CPH)

Masters thesis semester Spring 2017

Dear students on 10th semester Communication and Human-Centered Informatics,

Here on Moodle you can find the practical and academic information about your final semester. The primary source of communication about the semester is via Moodle, so please remember to check this page often.

The most important **dates** of the semester is:

Your masters thesis must be handed in on **24/5 2017 at 12.00** at <http://www.en.de.aau.dk/students/>

Oral exams: 5/6-23/6 2017

Graduation ceremony (dimission): 26/6 2017

Masters thesis seminar Spring 2017

During the Spring semester we offer a masters thesis seminar, with the goal of supporting the thesis writing process, and to inspire you to write a strong and scientifically well founded masters thesis.

The course consists of a series of seminars which focuses on practical, theoretical and structural topics which are relevant for the masters thesis process.

During the course we will work with problems of a practical nature such as literature reviews, theory, analysis, conclusion etc. There will also be a writing workshop focusing on the development of the academic argumentation of the thesis.

The course is a supplement to the supervision, and is not obligatory, but if you participate it is expected that you do so actively. Some workshops will require signing up beforehand - information to follow.

The course will be in English if there are English speaking students participating - otherwise it will be in Danish.

Btw. additional useful documentation can be found on <http://andersdrachen.com/for-students/>. Yvonne Bui's "how to write a masters thesis", 2nd edition, is also a good source of information.

Information and contact:

Thesis student coordinators:

Communication: Mette Marie Roslyng: mmroslyng@hum.aau.dk

HCI: Anders Drachen & Rikke Magnussen : drachen@hum.aau.dk

Contact for questions re. the academic content of the semester and the course. Do not contact regarding administrative issues.

Secretariat: Karen Holm Greve: karenhj@hum.aau.dk

open officetime 9-12 mon-friday

Contact the secretariat re. exam, planning, moodle, STADS and formalia.

Degree coordinator: Gorm Larsen: gormlarsen@hum.aau.dk

Contact re. dispensations, leave of absence and special conditions.

Best regards,

Rikke, Anders and Mette Marie



Specialesemester



Kommunikationspecialer informationer og formalia

1. Introduction and workshop in research problem

1. Introduction to the course: What is an MA thesis? (1 t)

Mette Marie Roslyng/Anders Drachen

- Introduction and overview
- Formalia/practicalities
- Planlæg specialeprocessen/plan your thesis process
- Skriveprocessen/writing

2. Fokus og problemformulering (3 t)

v/ Mette Marie Roslyng

I denne workshop får de studerende mulighed for at arbejde med deres eget speciales fokus, herunder:

- specialets fokus og 'undren'
- specialets begrundelse: samfundsmæssig og akademisk relevans
- Specialet som et akademisk argument

- problemformulering: forskellige typer og niveauer, teoretisk og videnskabsteoretisk fundering

In English:**2. Focus and research questions:**

This workshop allows the students to work with the focus of their own thesis, including:

- overall focus and direction of the thesis
- how can the thesis be justified: societal and academic relevance
- a thesis presented as an academic argument
- research problem/questions: different types and levels, theoretical and research philosophical focus

Literature for inspiration:

P. S. Jørgensen og L. Rienecker (2011), *Specielt om specialer*, Frederiksberg: Samfundslitteratur: kap 7

S. Hegelund (2000), *Akademisk Argumentation*, Frederiksberg: Samfundslitteratur

Seminar 2. Literature review and workshop in literatur searches and literature review (4 hours)

Litteraturreview og teoretisk positionering (2 t)

v/Mette Marie Roslyng

Vi arbejder med:

- teoretisk positionering
- teorikritik
- videnskabsteoretisk fokus
- litteraturreview

(Se f.eks. Jörg Zeller 2011, *Information, Medie, Kommunikation - en faglig videnskabsteori*, Aalborg: Aalborg Universitetsforlag.)

Specialeworkshop - Find din litteratur og afdæk dit forskningsfelt (2 t)

v/Charlotte Wind, bibliotekar

På workshoppen introducerer vi til forskellige søgestrategier og lærer dig at strukturere dine søgninger, så du finder den litteratur, du har brug for. Vi vil arbejde med selve søgeprocessen og lave øvelser, som tager udgangspunkt i dit eget speciale.

Du vil arbejde med at definere dit informationsbehov, finde relevante søgeord og finde de rigtige søgekilder (databaser), samt der vil være mulighed for at søge i databaserne.

Formålet med workshoppen er at du får nogle redskaber til at strukturere og dokumenter din litteratursøgninger.

Medbring en bærbar computer (ikke tablet) til kurset.

Varighed: 2 timer

Sprog: Dansk/Engelsk

In English:

Workshop in literature review and literature searches

- theoretical positioning
- theory critique
- writing and planning a literature review
- literature searches

Please bring a laptop computer (not a tablet)

Seminar 3. Workshop in methodologies

v/ Rikke Magnussen and Mette Marie Roslyng

This workshop gives the students the opportunity to work with their chosen methodologies and methods for data generation. We put a special focus on:

- justifying your chosen methods
- discuss their reliability and validity in relation to your research question
- considering mixed methods

This workshop requires preparation as you will work with specific issues that have arisen in relation to your own thesis work. More information will follow.

Seminar 4. Academic writing and argumentation

v/ Frederikke Winther

The focus of this workshop is to strengthen your academic writing skills in terms of planning the process and qualifying the outcome such as argumentation, structure and persona in your academic text. Based on previous writing experiences and the discussions of possible future strategies we aim at developing an individual framework for your writing process.

The workshop is based on the following resources;

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J.M. (2008). *The Craft of Research*, 3. edition. University of Chicago Press.

Hegelund, S. (2000). *Akademisk Argumentation. Skriv overbevisende opgaver på de videregående uddannelser*. Samfundslitteratur.

Jensen, L. B. (2004). *Fra patos til logos. Videnskabsretorik for begyndere*. Roskilde Universitetsforlag.

Johansen, A. (2011). On thinking in writing. In J. E. Kjeldsen & J. Grue (eds.), *Scandinavian Studies in - Rhetoric. Rhetorica Scandinavica 1997-2010*. Retorikforlaget, 198-217.

Seminar 5. Analysis

v/ Rikke Magnussen and Mette Marie Roslyng

This 6-hour seminar will give the students the opportunity to work with selected part of their data in order to develop a well-argued and systematic analytical strategy for their thesis. We will work with different coding strategies and ways to draw on your conceptual framework in order to make a sound and theoretically informed analysis.

Seminar 6. Concluding the course

1. Workshop: Konklusion and main argument (3 t)

v/Mette Marie

During this workshop the students will get the opportunity to work with their:

- Conclusion: content and aim
- Connecting the different parts of the thesis
- Main argument(s)
- Scientific contribution: originality and contribution to your field of research

For inspiration:

P. S. Jørgensen og L. Rienecker (2011), *Specielt om specialer*, Frederiksberg: Samfundslitteratur: kap 10

2. Concluding the Course (1 t)

v/Rikke og Mette Marie

- Formalia/practical issues
 - Spørgsmål/questions
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