

English Program, Department of Foreign Languages

3-year evaluation, ENG340

Filled out by course instructor

Course code	ENG 340: Master Thesis Preparation
Year	Spring 2021
Course instructor	Lene Johannessen
Structure and progression of the course	<p>The course runs over eight weeks, where the seminars oscillate between studying literary theory and method generally, studying and evaluating past MA theses, and fine-tuning individual thesis topics and thesis statements, two per student. The course thus ends in two completed project descriptions which are both part of the portfolio exam and are submitted to the coordinator for supervisor assignment.</p> <p>The seminars are discussion based, and students are expected to present on the various areas we focus on in most of the seminars.</p>
Correspondence between learning outcome description and teaching, learning and assessment methods.	There is consistent correspondence between learning outcome descriptions and the instruction, as far as I can tell. All students fulfilled their four obligatory assignments that go into the portfolio before they submitted their final project descriptions.
Did the course have a student evaluation? If so, what did it say?	In 2021 only one student responded to the evaluation, in 2020 there were none. My impression is that students like the course because it steers them toward their MA thesis idea, but

	also because it's not a lot of work compared to other 10 courses. See below for suggestions.
Possible improvements	<p>I do not think that ENG340 should continue, as it takes up 10 credits with what in my opinion is not enough content. Instead, I suggest letting three of the current ENG 340 seminars become part of the ENG350 requirements, as follows:</p> <p>In the <i>second semester</i> of the MA program, students participate in three seminars focused on thesis preparation. The content of these seminars will include, but is not limited to, reading and assessing selections from previously submitted MA theses, becoming familiarized with evaluation guidelines, studying key elements of argument and thesis statement, developing a project idea, and working with secondary sources. At the end of the three seminars students complete their MA thesis project form and submit this to the studieveileder.</p> <p>I believe the above arrangement will provide the students with sufficient preparation for their MA thesis writing, and will also level the playing field for L-students, who currently have no offer whatsoever of this kind. With three seminars added to ENG350's Work in Progress seminar in the second semester for all literature/culture students, we make sure that the entire group is on the same track, regardless of what program they are in. This also frees up 10 credits we sorely need to offer the students adequate and in-depth studies in various areas within literature and culture.</p>