

### **Thesis or dissertation grading criteria; other grading criteria, if applicable.**

The purpose of the thesis is to give evidence of the student's theoretical and analytical abilities. In their theses, students synthesize and evaluate the foundational assumptions in the relevant scholarship and demonstrate their ability to present research results concisely and in a scholarly form. The research should constitute original scholarship in which students identify and critically apply the scholarly literature and relevant methodologies. The thesis should make a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject.

As a result of the inherently interdisciplinary nature of nationalism studies scholarship, students are encouraged to creatively combine the research apparatus of several disciplines and also to design inventive methodological frameworks which help to capture the peculiarities of nationalism related issues.

Throughout the process of researching for the thesis and writing the dissertation students are closely supervised both individually and in groups. They have a chance to present their work at least twice in front of their professors and colleagues and thus gain experience in presenting arguments. Thereby the process of planning and writing the theses significantly contributes to the further professional development of students as well as to their mastery of communication skills in English.

MA theses are evaluated by a committee of three professors including the supervisors. Readers are asked to evaluate the thesis according to a number of criteria including the

- a, scholarly relevance of the research;
- b, depth and breadth of the research focus;
- c, the relevance and adequacy of the research methodology;
- d, critical use of a wide range of literature and theories;
- e, originality of the argument;
- f, consistency and coherence of the argument;
- g, logic and structure of the presentation;
- h, form and language of the presentation.

During the thesis defense students summarize the main findings and original contributions of their theses and answer the questions of the committee. Committee members are asked to present their comments in the form of suggestions as to how to revise the thesis in case the student wishes to proceed with publication as many of our theses end up being published. Those producing outstanding theses are advised to publish a shortened version of their theses in peer-reviewed international journals for which they receive support from their supervisors and the thesis committee. A large part of the theses by students of the Nationalism Studies Program are eventually published in journals and edited volumes.