

Grading Guidelines for JAP4010: Theory and Method in Japanese Studies

Autumn 2024 - Project Proposal

Course Description

Japanese studies is a field, not a discipline. Students will be working on topics that range from modern politics to literature, history, and linguistics, and will therefore be using a wide range of different theories and methods. The aim of this course is to help you to choose a topic for your MA thesis, reflect on the theories and methods that you will need, and to write and present a project plan that will guide your work towards your final thesis.

The course begins with a series of lectures and seminars, revolving around practical exercises in central academic methods that can be expected to have relevance for all of you. These will range from research ethics to exercises in using library databases. After this, an intensive seminar (called "Academic Survival Kit" or ASK) will offer you the possibility to make your final decision on the direction that your MA research will take. For the final part of the course, students will be divided into smaller groups based on their research interests and work on more specific methodologies relevant to their chosen topic. The course concludes with a round of presentations, where you will have the opportunity to explain your project plan to your fellow students and the teaching staff and receive feed-back - as well as learn from your fellow students and give comments on their ideas.

Examination

The examination for JAP4010 consists of three parts:

1. An oral presentation of your MA research project (10 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A) on November 14, 9:15-16:00, Georg Sverdrups hus Group Room 4
2. A project proposal for your MA thesis (approximately 5 pages of text and 1-2 pages of bibliography). The submission deadline is December 10 at 11:00 am on Inspira
3. An essay on a theoretical or methodological issue relevant to your MA thesis (approximately 10 pages). The submission deadline is December 10 at 11:00 am on Inspira

You will receive a grade for each part of the exam and *you need to pass all three parts* in order to pass the course. Each part will count as one third of the total grade.

This grading guideline applies to the project proposal.

Grading Guidelines

A: Proposals that receive the highest mark should be of a very high overall standard. They should be focused, concise, well-written, and well-referenced. Papers that receive an A are distinguished by the depth and originality of the thinking about the MA project, with clear formulations relating to a working title, main research question or hypothesis (and other questions, if relevant), outline, introduction to the topic, literature, theoretical/conceptual framework, methodology, planning/timeline, and bibliography.

B: Proposals that receive this mark are of a high overall standard, with significant strengths in multiple areas.

C: Proposals that receive this mark are of a good overall standard. Shortcomings in some areas may be balanced out by strengths in others.

D: Proposals that receive this mark have shortcomings that relate to either formal or substantial content.

E-F: Proposals that receive one of these marks do not meet the academic standard either formally or substantially.