KIN4010 Grading Guidelines Fall 2024

Information

A term paper of 4000-7000 words plus list of references. The paper needs to account for and discuss the choice of methodologies and the process of data collection related to the Master's thesis. It also has to contain reflections on this process based on at least one relevant academic publication regarding research methodology. Grades are awarded on a pass/fail scale.

KIN4010 is a course with no mandatory teaching. As part of the course, the students are supposed to identify and collect data that they need for their thesis work, and read and summarize literature that critically assess the research methodologies they wish to apply. They must have had at least three meetings with their MA supervisor to discuss methodology and methods of data collection for their MA project, and they must have submitted a full draft of the term paper to their supervisor before they take the exam. As a prerequisite for taking KIN4010 the students must have completed a course on how to study Chinese culture and society (KIN4510). KIN4510 introduced key methods for conducting China studies and associated considerations regarding ethics and quality, including approaches from history, culture studies and social sciences.

Grading criteria

Independent work and originality

- The term paper must be the student's independent and original work. All ideas, arguments, and data drawn from others much be referenced.

Research topic and question

- The term paper should present a clearly defined MA research topic and research question.

Literature

- The term paper should demonstrate a good comprehension of methodology literature (at least one item) relevant to the research topic.
- The term paper should draw on relevant academic literature to develop its arguments.

Data and source

- The term paper should be based on at least one relevant academic publication regarding research methodology.

Methodology

- The term paper should provide a clear description of the methodology of the student's MA thesis, including the selection/sampling of research subjects, the data collection process, data treatment and methods of analysis.

- The term paper should account for why the methods were chosen.
- The term paper should provide reflections on the advantages and limitations of the selected methods, and about the implications from methodological choices for the academic quality of the MA thesis (according to quality criteria relevant for the MA topic).
- If relevant considering the MA topic, the term paper should provide reflections on the ethical implications of methodological choices.

Concept and Theory

- An outstanding term paper should integrate or identify academic concepts and theories in its argumentation. This is, however, not a compulsory requirement.

Writing

- The term paper should have a clear structure by using headlines and subtitles.
- The term paper should use clear academic English.

Reference

- The term paper should use a consistent style of academic reference with both in-text citations and a list of reference at the end of the paper.