

Writing the PhD – genre, form and evaluation

5 credits

Course level

Third cycle

Intended learning outcomes

- Ability to compare the various forms a PhD dissertation may take
- Show and understanding of the processes involved in writing a PhD dissertation
- Produce an evaluation a PhD dissertation based on criteria discussed in the course

Course content

This course will discuss how PhD dissertations are written, shaped by formal requirements and local practices, and how they are evaluated. We will explore the PhD dissertation as a genre, asking what elements are incorporated in its production and discussing how these can be flexible. During the course, students will read a how-to book on writing a dissertation, as well as 3 different examples of PhD dissertations to get a feel for the variations that the genre can contain. We will also study the production steps outlined in the Tema PhD student handbooks and read an example of a Tema PhD dissertation at the 60% seminar, 90% seminar and the published final version. Finally, the course will invite professors to come and speak about recent PhD dissertations they have evaluated, giving insight into how a PhD is “graded” or evaluated.

Examination

The course will be examined based on active participation and a written task. Written task: based on the discussions during the lectures, revisit one of the dissertations read for session 2 and write a 1-2 page evaluation of the dissertation. Include the question you would ask at the public defence if you were on the grading committee (all members of the grading committee are expected to ask at least one question to the defendant at the end of the defence) and the (usually more critical) points you would want to discuss with the rest of the committee during the post-defence grading session. Turn-in by email to Ericka.johnson@liu.se no later than 13 October 2023.

If special circumstances prevail, and if it is possible with consideration of the nature of the compulsory component, the examiner may decide to replace the compulsory component with another equivalent component.

Language of examination: English

Grades

Pass/ Fail (U/G)

The course syllabus was determined by the Supervisors Committee at the Department of Thematic Studies/ Gender Studies Division on 16 February, 2022.