MSc in Development and International Relations (GRS) Thesis preparation course 5 ECTS

**Oplysninger om semesteret**

*Department: Politics and Society*
*Study Board: Board of Studies for International Affairs*
*Regulations and Curriculum GRS: https://studieordninger.aau.dk/2021/29/2595*
*Semester: 3rd semester*
*Periode: Fall 2022*

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**Description of the semester**

**Thesis preparation workshop** (5 ECTS)

The objective of the thesis preparation workshop is to enable the students to define and delimit a potential topic and problem field for their MA thesis within the subject area of Development and International Relations or European Studies. In addition, the aim is to enable the students to identify and collect relevant data and literature within this problem field. Students are expected to identify a problem area for their thesis, collect relevant literature related to this area of study and outline key perspectives within that field. The problem area and the relevant literature must be outlined in a synopsis.

The thesis preparation workshop consists of a number of online workshops and lectures providing students with skills for writing the synopsis, and allowing students to work with and receive feedback on their synopsis.

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**Semester coordination and secretariat**

Study Secretary: Morten Melander Olsen
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Programme Coordinator: Danny Raymond
(7+8+10 semester)
Fredrikskaj 10B, 3rd floor room 303
**Thesis Preparation**

5 ECTS

**Location**
3rd semester

**Coordinators**
Danny Raymond

**Language**
Language of instruction: English

**Objectives**
The objective of this module is to prepare the students for the writing of the master thesis by enabling them to define and delimit a potential topic and problem field within the subject area of the study program. In addition, the aim is to enable the students to identify and collect relevant data and literature within this problem field.

**Content**
Students are introduced to the requirements for master thesis writing. Students are expected to identify a potential problem area for their thesis, collect relevant literature related to this area of study and outline key perspectives within that field. The problem area and the relevant literature must be outlined in a synopsis.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

**KNOWLEDGE**
- Key empirical aspects of the selected problem area
- Central academic debates in relation to the chosen topic/problem area
- Fundamental components of the master thesis and requirements for the thesis proposal

**SKILLS**
- Can identify a relevant problem area within the field of international relations and argue for the relevance of the chosen problem
- Ability to find relevant academic literature on the chosen topic
- Can summarize the major academic debates regarding the selected subject area.
- Can select relevant theories and methods in relation to the chosen problem area and argue for this choice.

**COMPETENCES**
- Can delimit a research area and outline a research project
- Can work independently with academic literature search
- Can apply and explain academic and PBL principles to create a project design, which can form the basis for the MA thesis.

**TYPE OF INSTRUCTION**
- Online seminars and cluster supervision. The students will be expected to identify a problem field within International Relations and work independently with data collection and literature review within the chosen problem area.

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<td>Written exam</td>
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The examination for Thesis Preparation is an internally assessed individual or group-based written exam in the form of a synopsis including a literature review. Maximum length 6 standard pages for one person + one additional page per person in the group.

Hand in date WILL BE ADDED