UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Master's Dissertation

Code: 43146
ECTS Credits: 12

2024/2025

Degree	Type	Year
4313769 Anthropology: Advanced Research and Social Intervention	OB	0

Contact

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Teachers

Silvia Gomez Mestres

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this document.

Prerequisites

There are no specific requirements.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The goal of this module is to apply the theoretical, methodological and technical knowledge acquired during the Master degree in the Master thesis, which can be ethnographic, comparative, theoretical or oriented to sociocultural or socio-environmental intervention, including gender perspective. It is the final test of the academic competences obtained during the Master program. The learning results coincide with the drafting of different parts of a research report: The proposal of a research problem and research questions, the development of an appropriate theoretical framework, the identification of the most appropriate research design for answering the question(s), the selection and application of these methods, the analyses of the data and obtention of results, and the discussion of these results in the context of prior scientific work in the thematic area. The student presents this in his or her thesis and defends it orally for the Master thesis committee.

This module is part of all specialisations and it is scheduled during the second semester.

Competences

- Carry out ground-breaking, flexible research in anthropology by applying theories and methodologies and using appropriate data collection and analysis techniques.

- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Defend arguments clearly, precisely and appropriately within the context, and at the same time value the contributions made by other people.
- Identify, in ethnographic fieldwork, different outlooks corresponding to ethnic, class, gender and age inequalities and identities.
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Solve problems in new or little-known situations within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.
- Systematically link up concepts, and theories within the discipline so as to analyse specific ethnographic contexts.
- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
- Use information and communication technologies efficiently to acquire, create and spread knowledge.

Learning Outcomes

1. Apply the appropriate arguments in the preparation of the final master and justify them with clarity and precision, so appropriate to the context and values ??the contributions of other authors.
2. Apply the knowledge acquired to problem-solving in new or unfamiliar intervention contexts of work on anthropological documents.
3. Choose and suitably combine the different techniques for compiling and analysing data in an anthropological research project.
4. Find original ways to combine ideas, based on the knowledge acquired, within research work on anthropology and social intervention.
5. Identify important elements in institutional documents and/or scientific texts that help to formulate judgments and reflect on social and ethical responsibilities in anthropology.
6. Identify particular social and cultural situations and their relation to global phenomena in specific anthropological research work.
7. Identify, in the work of an ethnographer, different outlooks corresponding to ethnic, class, gender and age inequalities and identities.
8. Integrate primary and secondary ethnographic data from varying sources.
9. Present conclusions and intervention proposals in the context of research
10. Propose the appropriate theoretical-methodological intervention or research design for the chosen ethnographic context of an anthropological study.
11. Recognize, define, combine and use effectively information technology and communication according to the context of ethnographic research and / or intervention chosen.
12. Systematically link up concepts, and theories within the discipline that fit in with the specific ethnographic research context.

Content

The students are expected to apply the theoretical, methodological and technical knowledge acquired during the Master to the performance of an investigation, which can be ethnographic, comparative, theoretical or oriented to sociocultural or socio-environmental intervention, including gender perspective.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Supervised			

Tutorials with suprvisor of Master Thesis	50	2	1, 9
Type: Autonomous			
Elaboration and defense of Master Thesis	249	9.96	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

The Master's Thesis (TFM) is based on the autonomous work of the student under the supervision of a professor from the department. This supervision begins at the start of the academic year, once the students have had an initial opportunity to get to know the research lines of the involved faculty (in one of the coordination sessions), and it should continue throughout the course.

The student must present their TFM idea to a professor or researcher from the Department related to the selected topic with the aim of having a supervisor by mid-November. The Master's Coordinator will request each student to provide a title and the name of a supervisor by the third week of November. If the student has a topic but not a supervisor, the Master's Committee will suggest one, considering the student's interests and the faculty's specialization. From this date, each student will have to hold a tutorial with their supervisor to present the progress of the TFM previously agreed upon with them. The supervisor can help the student define the research topic, suggest bibliography, supervise the research design, and suggest improvements based on the drafts that the student presents at least a few days before the meetings.

Below is a list of part of the permanent faculty of the Department of Anthropology along with a series of topics and keywords, which they work on individually or within their research groups, to help facilitate the thematic choice of the Master's Thesis (TFM). You can find more information about the department's research lines at this link: Department of Anthropology Research Groups

- Beatriz Ballestín: Childhood and Youth, Migrations, Education, Childhood and Family Policies, Mysticism
- Bruna Alvarez: Childhoods, adolescences; sexualities; maternities; work-life balance; masculinities
- Dan Rodríguez: Migrations/mobility, social inclusion/exclusion, discrimination and racism, interculturality, identity
- Diana Marre: Human reproduction: pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, reproductive losses; family diversity; prematurity, childhood and parenting; secrecy and memory; health and care; mourning and losses
- Hugo Valenzuela: Economy, work, consumption, poverty, loneliness
- Jordi Grau: Visual Anthropology; Cinema, fiction, documentary, and ethnography; Family and Kinship; Sociocultural vulnerability in parenting contexts; Applications of Artificial Intelligence in vulnerable groups.
- Jose Luís Molina: Personal networks, informal economy, migrations, ethnic entrepreneurship, research ethics
- Josep Lluís Mateo: Anthropology of colonialism, Historical Anthropology, Islam, North African migrations, Ritual
- Montserrat Clua: Ethnic identities and politics; Nationalism and Citizenship in Catalonia and Europe; Anthropology and literary narratives about political identities
- Sílvia Gómez: Environmental justice, sea peoples, environmental human rights, environmental activism, sustainable food markets
- Virginia Fons: Contemporary rituals

The final version of the TFM must be delivered to its supervisor before June 22, 2025 (this is a recommendation to give supervisors enough time for a timely review) to obtain their approval. The work will be deposited on the virtual campus by July 1, 2024, before 11:55 PM on the designated Virtual Campus, following the guidelines in the "Evaluation" section of this guide. The oral defense of the thesis will take place on July 11, 2024 (see the "Evaluation" section).

VERY IMPORTANT: The TFM submission and defense dates are non-negotiable. If the TFM is not submitted within the established period, the student will have to re-enroll for the next academic year, paying the module fees again. It is advised that the student sets a delivery schedule with the supervisor from the beginning to gradually progress with the work and reduce the risk of not submitting on time.

- Tutorials: 50 hours, 100% in-person
- Personal work for reading, and/or fieldwork, analysis, and writing conclusions: 250 hours

IMPORTANT DATES:

DATES	ACTIVITY	LOCATION/PERSON	MATERIAL
September 16 to October 3	Propaedeutic	Individuals without anthropology training	
September 30	Inaugural Conference	To be determined	
October 23, at 18:00	Presentation of research groups and topics	Representatives of department research groups	
November 25	Selection of Master's Thesis (TFM) Supervisor	Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology	Electronic communication to Coordinator
Once a month	Tutorial with Master's Thesis Supervisor	Supervisor's office	Throughout the course
June 22	Submission of final version of Master's Thesis to Supervisor	Supervisor (via email)	Master's Thesis digital in Word format
July 1 (before 23:55h)	Submission of Master's Thesis	Virtual Campus	Must be signed by the supervisor, digital in PDF
July 11 (between 09:00 and 18:30)	Defense of Master's Thesis	To be confirmed	Oral presentation or with computer support / PowerPoint presentation

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Dissertation (Master Thesis)	80%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Oral defense Master thesis	20%	1	0.04	1, 9

To be evaluated, the student must meet the following requirements regarding format, dates, and presentation rules:

- Length (Master in Anthropology: Advanced Research and Social Intervention): The research work will have a maximum length of 16,000-20,000 words, not including bibliography or index. There is the possibility of including additional information in an annex if the type of work requires it and always at the discretion of the supervisor. Annexes do not count towards the maximum word limit.
- Language: The final document can be submitted in Catalan, Spanish, or English. In all cases, the student is responsible for linguistic correction.
- Length (Master CREOLE): The research work will have a maximum length of 32,000-40,000 words, not including bibliography or index. There is the possibility of including additional information in an annex if the type of work requires it and always at the discretion of the supervisor. Annexes do not count towards the maximum word limit.
- Language: The language and defense of the CREOLE Master's Thesis will be in English.
- Cover Page: The cover must include the title of the Master's Thesis, the student's full name, and the supervisor's name. It should state that it is a Final Master's Thesis in Anthropology: Advanced Research and Social Intervention and must include both the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology and the UAB. Finally, it must include the submission date or academic year.
- Format: Formal aspects include: left and right margins of 3 cm, top and bottom margins of 2.5 cm; 1.5 line spacing; Arial 12 or Times New Roman 13 for the main text and Arial 10 or Times New Roman 11 for footnotes. Footnotes should be placed at the bottom of the page for easy reading and correction. Tables and figures must be numbered and titled, specifying their sources. The thesis must have an index and a bibliography.
- Submission: The thesis will be submitted to the Virtual Campus of the TFM Module on the scheduled dates (before July 1st at 23:55), with the supervisor's signature.
- Defense: The thesis will be presented on July 11th in a public session before a thesis committee appointed by the master's commission. The master's thesis committee consists of 3 members (one member is the master's coordinator, who acts as secretary). The order of intervention and the room will be published one week before the examination. The structure of the exam is as follows:
    Candidate's presentation: 10-15 minutes
    Committee members' intervention: 10 minutes each (20 in total)
    Candidate's response: 10 minutes
    Deliberation, resolution, and minutes: 5-10 minutes.

CREOLE TFM defenses will have more time availability.

Theses that do not meet formal requirements or do not have the supervisor's approval will be marked as "Not Evaluable." For any doubts or clarifications, students can contact their thesis supervisor or the coordinator.

Evaluation considers three items:

- 10%: Supervisor's report
- 60%: Written report
- 30%: Oral defense

Throughout the course and within the Research Laboratory subject managed by the program's coordination, a TFM evaluation rubric will be provided to guide students in producing a good TFM.

The criteria considered are:

- Problem formulation:
    The student must demonstrate the ability to formulate a relevant and pertinent research problem, related to the social issues that motivated their choice.
    Explicit articulation of the approach adopted in the master's thesis, especially if the student intends to continue the research in a doctoral thesis.

- Originality of research:

  The research work must be designed and argued by the student, evenif it is part of a larger collective research project or a subsequent doctoral thesis, which should be mentioned in the introduction.

  Originality is understood as the contribution of previously unpublished knowledge. This can take different forms in this initial research phase:

  - an empirical work not previously conducted;
  - a literature review not yet performed;
  - the use of known material with a new interpretation;
  - the application of a known research design to an unstudied reality.

- Quality of conducted research:

  Seeking and using appropriate bibliographic sources for the familiarization phase with the problem or research area proposed. All included bibliography must have been read and analyzed, and the text should reflect this knowledge directly and indirectly.

  Definition of the study object and project objectives.

  Theoretical orientation and perspective within the discipline.

  Research background and theoretical framework developed according to the object and objectives.

  Proper conceptual treatment and clarity of the questions raised.

  Explicit statement of hypothesis/research questions, even if they are not advanced in their testing in the research work (for example, in the case of a literature review as the beginning of a thesis project).

  Delimitation of the study group, definition of the unit of analysis and observation units, and explanation of the selection or sampling used, if necessary for the type of work.

  Identification and justification of the sources used.

  Justification and suitability of the techniques and instruments selected and applied.

  Ability to organize the collected data and clarity in the construction and use of analysis categories of obtained data and consulted sources.

- Relevance of conclusions and, if applicable, continuity proposals:

  Assessment of the ability to analyze, synthesize, and identify support obtained in relation to the objectives and/or hypotheses formulated.

  Acknowledgment of weaknesses (deficiencies, imbalances, and risks) of the work presented and proposals for overcoming them in subsequent phases.

  Prudence in presenting conclusions and improving initial questions.

  Explicit statement, if applicable, of continuity perspectives and work plan to follow.

- Organization of the narrative:

  The final master's thesis should be a document with a logical index reflecting the research sequence and/or thematic development.

  The language should be clear and follow the conventional expressive register of a scientific work in Social Sciences, allowing for smooth reading.

  It should make good use of citations as an explanatory resource to provide greater precision and detail, avoiding paraphrasing at all times. For other formal matters, such as citation styles and formatting of bibliographic references, it is recommended to use Mendeley or systems recommended by the Humanities library (courses and online access from the UAB libraries website: http://www.bib.uab.es). Figures or images should also be properly cited, see http://www.bib.uab.cat/infoguies/tfmes/.

- Oral defense:

  Finally, the quality of the oral defense will be taken into account: clarity of presentation and the extent to which the student's response to committee comments is measured.

General rules:

- Evaluation is understood as a continuous process throughout the academic period.
- Grades used will be on a scale of 0-10 with one decimal place. To pass the subject, a minimum grade of 5.0 is required as an average resulting from the grades obtained in each activity, considering the percentage of each in the final grade. Once the subject is passed, it cannot be reassessed.
- The evaluation activities schedule cannot be modified, except for exceptional and duly justified reasons. In this case, a new schedule will be proposed within the corresponding academic period.

- Anyone who engages in irregularities that could lead to a significant alteration of the qualification for any evidence will receive a grade of 0 for it, regardless of any disciplinary process that may be initiated. If several irregularities occur in the evaluation tests of the same module, the final grade for that module will be 0.
- The "Not Evaluable" qualification on the final evaluation report implies the exhaustion of the rights inherent to enrollment in the subject or module, although "Not Evaluable" will not count on the academic record.
- Copying or plagiarism of material, both in the case of assignments and exams, constitutes an offense that will be punished with a zero for the activity, without the right to reassessment, and the entire subject will be suspended. It is noted that a "copy" is a paper that reproduces all or a large part of another student's work. "Plagiarism" is presenting all or part of a text from an author as one's own, without citing sources, whether on paper or in digital format. See UAB documentation on "plagiarism" at: http://wuster.uab.es/web_argumenta_obert/unit_20/sot_2_01.html. Also see http://www.bib.uab.cat/infoguies/tfmes/.
- Declaration on the use of generative tools (AI): The use of style revision, translation, bibliographic references editing tools in the editing of TFG or TFM does not require an explicit declaration in the text. However, the use of AI-assisted technologies during the writing process to generate new textual or graphic content must be stated in a section before the bibliographic references titled "AI Use Declaration," where the content in question must be identified and adequately justified for inclusion. In any case, the author assumes full responsibility for the content of the publication.

This subject/module does not foresee a unique evaluation system.

Bibliography

The thesis advisor can suggest literature of interest to the student, according to the topic of research.

Furthermore, the following book is recommended:

Yvonne N. Bui (2014). How to Write a Master's Thesis. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Software

It is essential to use basic word processing software or other specific software for the proper development of the TFM research according to the objectives set with the tutors.

Language list

Information on the teaching languages can be checked on the CONTENTS section of the guide.