

# Help for getting started with your thesis in Anglo-American Studies

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Send your answers/responses to the first nine questions/tasks in the body an email to me – no attachments! – before making an appointment online <<http://userpages.uni-koblenz.de/~jody/as/consultations.html>> to see me in person or virtually via the BBB.

1. your kind of thesis: Bachelorarbeit, Masterarbeit
2. your planned date of turning in the thesis
3. tentative title of thesis
4. description of topic chosen
5. How is this topic relevant for Anglo-American Area and Cultural Studies? Be specific and show off your knowledge of your experience in the module 3 and module 5 seminars.
6. details about your own experience in writing research papers including the topic of theses or module exam papers by other students that I've already evaluated as a first step to beginning your research
7. details of all the sources you're familiar with from module 3 and 5 seminars as well as additional sources you've already consulted with full bibliographical details including where the reader can find the sources, using exactly the same format you plan to use in the final version of your thesis
8. List at least ten concrete questions you wish to answer in your thesis.
9. Give a tentative schedule of the concrete steps you're planning for your research with estimated time you think you'll need for each step.
10. After receiving confirmation that I can accept your thesis as first reader, then supply a tentative abstract of your planned thesis.

You can find information about abstracts in the Hodges' Harbrace Handbook, 17<sup>th</sup> international edition, available in my reserved books: Chapters 37(c) 1 and 39d (4) and examples in Chapters 41 (c) and 43 (h). Getting some practice in writing abstracts might be useful not only for the planning for your thesis but also for those who may want to write articles or give talks at conferences too. If you wish, you can write the abstract in German and perhaps use a revised version of it for the required summary in German required by the PO §15 (7).

And finally students are naturally very curious about the grading procedure. My personal experience both as undergraduate and graduate student in the US and in Germany as well as an examiner at German universities for the last thirty years has shown me how wildly arbitrary and astoundingly opaque grading can be. I've developed a system of evaluating theses that will hopefully help both students wrestling with their first (Bachelorarbeit) or second (Masterarbeit) longer paper and also help me to be as transparent and fair in my grading as possible. You can find the evaluation sheet online as a link from the same web page that you used to download this sheet. Those students who have taken my Anglo-American Studies seminars will have had experience with this grading system and should thus be optimally prepared for writing their theses, too. Since the table forms an integral part of the *Gutachten* that the Hochschulprüfungsamt requires, it's in German.