

Requirements for Term Papers

Requirements	Short Description
Length	Please check module description
Approach	Concept / Text / Theory (from literary or cultural studies)
Sources:	<p>Relevant, up-to-date, classics (if applicable)</p> <p>Not all papers have a theoretical or historical outlook, but if they do, you need to use appropriate sources)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historical background - Concept / theory / method - Secondary sources (scholarship about the primary texts) - No sources from so-called “predatory journals”¹ may be used
Use of sources: Discursive practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sources must be read in the original and used discursively in the paper ✓ Understanding the argument and engaging productively with it ✓ Quoting passages relevant for one’s own argument: quotations must be accurate and they must exist in the original text on the page indicated by the student
Structure of paper	Title page, table of contents, introduction, theoretical / methodological chapter, analysis chapter/s, conclusions
Cohesion	Correspondence introduction – conclusion; use of concept / theory / method in analysis chapter/s
Thesis statement	Formulated in “Introduction”, developed in paper

¹ https://www.ub.hu-berlin.de/en/researching-and-publishing/open-access/legal-aspects/predatory-publishing?set_language=en
<https://www.dfg.de/en/basics-topics/digital-topics/open-access/what-is-open-access/predatory-journals>

Research question/s	One or several clearly formulated research question/s (in the “Introduction” to the paper)
Argumentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Thesis-oriented, argument-based ✓ Engages with and responds to other interpretations of primary text (secondary literature)
Text analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Relevant text passages (primary text) ✓ Command of analysis techniques ✓ Linked directly to thesis statement and argument-oriented
Competencies	Besides the competencies listed here, each module has its own goals and requirements which must be reflected in the respective research paper
Editing	<p>Form (errors, mistakes)</p> <p>Content (inconsistencies, omissions, contradictions)</p> <p>Style (academic, written, standard)</p>
Individuality / Originality	<p>New arguments, new readings, original links / associations</p> <p>Particular strength/s (can compensate for particular weakness/es)</p>
Transparency	Transparency declaration must be appended to the paper.
Style	<p>Academic standard of English, academic vocabulary</p> <p>Use of specialist terminology from the field of literary and critical studies</p>
Quotation style	<p>MLA standard (in-text and bibliography)</p> <p>https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html</p>