

Audiovisual BA Theses

Audiovisual BA theses can consist of either a film or photos, in both cases accompanied by a text. The length of films should be approximately 10 minutes while a photo project consists of around 15 photos. The accompanying text must not exceed 2,500 words (§11 (5) Studienordnung 2018).

Relation between Text and Film/Photo Essay

The film or photo essay and the accompanying text are intended to meaningfully complement one another. Taken together, the film or photo essay and the accompanying text have to meet the requirements of an academic project in terms of topical focus, reference to anthropological debates, plausibility, consistency, reflections on methods, ethics and positionality. The text has to include information on the conceptual approach, methods, technical making-of process and ethical considerations. It must further meet the formal criteria of a regular thesis, see: Leitfaden für das Verfassen von Hausarbeiten:

https://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/ethnologie/studium/Leitfaden_IfSKA_Verfassen_von_wissenschaftlichen_Hausarbeiten_Maerz_2019.pdf).

Grading: The grade is made up of the grade for the written work (1/3) and the grade for the visual element (2/3)

A. Evaluation Criteria for the Audiovisual Element (4/6 or 67.7% of the final grade)

(1) Ethnographic Material and Method (1/6 of the final grade)

The film/photo essay has to be based on ethnographic material and anthropological methods. The student has to demonstrate an understanding of ethnographic approaches to the topic. The methods have to be applied in a suitable way and make sense in the context of the film or photo essay. Ideally, the film or photo essay will include a variety of sources and materials. If the film or photo essay takes a very narrow approach or uses a small amount of material, it has to be well justified either in the written text or directly in the film. The material has to relate to the main topic and to support the argument. The filming and processing of the recordings must be done in an ethically responsible way (e.g., persons filmed need to give their consent and possible negative consequences of their being represented in a film or photo essay have to be taken into account (this may be different in cases where individuals are filmed or photographed as part of a larger crowd and are not individually identifiable); see here:

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/gwp/forschungsethik/index.html>).

Furthermore, the film and photos have to meet the legal requirements laid down in relevant data protection regulations linked here:

https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=DSG_BE

and here:

<https://www.privacy-regulation.eu/de/index.htm>).

Also, students must take into account copyright regulations, especially regarding the use of music or audiovisual material.

(2) Technical Approach and Skill (1/6 of the final grade)

The film or photo essay has to be well-crafted from a technical standpoint. This is meant not as an evaluation of the technology/equipment used but of the student's skill in using it. This includes the quality of photography and camera work, audio (if applicable), and editing (visual montage, image/sound juxtaposition, etc).

(3) Theoretical Argument and Discussion (1/6 of the final grade)

The film or photo essay has to be clearly positioned within Social and Cultural Anthropology and be informed by and inspire a theoretical analysis. The film or photo essay has to offer clear and meaningful insights into an anthropological field and/or a relevant anthropological debate. The theoretical argument has to be recognizable by the way the material is presented and/or edited, also in relation to the written part of the thesis.

(4) Narrational Style (1/6 of the final grade)

The film or photo essay has to feature a consistent thread or narrative. The narrative style has to correspond to the topic. However, the narrative must not be fictional.

B. Evaluation Criteria of the Accompanying Text (2/6 or 33.3% of the final grade)

(1) Structure, Language and Form (1/6 of the final grade)

The accompanying text has to be clearly structured. Its composition and layout have to show that the student has tried to balance and present different aspects of the topic. The argumentation has to be coherent and the linguistic expression has to meet the requirements of clarity and accuracy. The work has to be complete in formal regards and follows the specifications laid down in the examination regulations. The references have to be precise and the bibliography has to be complete. Indirect and direct citations have to comply with the standards of good academic practice.

(2) Argumentation / Theory / Analysis (1/6 of the final grade)

The topic of the thesis has to be presented and introduced in a comprehensible way. A clear question has to be formulated that corresponds well with the overall topic and the methods employed. The overall argumentation has to be goal-oriented and sufficiently substantiated by scholarly literature and empirical material (if applicable). The state of anthropological research pertaining the topic has to be adequately presented, the theoretical concepts used have to be appropriately selected, consistently applied, discussed and reflected upon. Own hypotheses and approaches have to be placed against the backdrop of this discussion.