Writing your Master’s thesis

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Writing a Master’s thesis

How far have you come?

Master’s degree

Long thesis

Short thesis

4th term

3rd term

2nd term

1st term

Writing seminar

Meeting research groups

Introduction week

Writing your Master’s thesis, Spring 2018

Dag Langmyhr
Why have a writing seminar?

- The thesis is the most important part of your master’s study programme. It’s what really decides your grade.
- Academic writing is different from other forms of writing.
- Very few of you have written a 100 page document before.
- Many of you have not written anything substantial in years.
Do I really need a course in \LaTeX? \\

Even if you have used \LaTeX for simpler documents, you will benefit from today’s course as it will focus on how to write a master’s thesis.
Do I really need a course in Word?

Everybody can use Word for a simple piece of text. A master’s thesis is quite different; you will need:

- Front page
- Page numbers, headers and footers
- Table of contents
- Lists of figures and tables
- Numbered sectioning
- Cross-references
- Illustrations with captions
- Tables with captions
- Citations
- Bibliography (very important)

Also, the whole document should be easy to read (consider font, type size, margins) and be consistent even when split on several files.
Other tools

There exist various other text processing tools:

- Google Docs
- LibreOffice
- Lyx
- OpenOffice
- ...

In my opinion, these are insufficient for writing a master’s thesis.
A final admonition

These days you have time to learn your tool properly. You will save a lot of time by

- following the course
- trying out everything you learnt

If problems arise the last month before deadline,

- you don’t have time to learn the techniques you need
- your work is a lot bigger and more difficult to modify
Tuesday

10:30 Welcome, Dag Langmyhr
10:50 A survey, Ingrid Yu
11:10 Practical information, The student administration
11:30 How to write a master’s thesis, Hanne Cecilie Geirbo
13:15 \LaTeX{} for your master’s thesis, Dag Langmyhr or
   Handling your thesis in Word, Bouvet (in Smalltalk)
   (These courses are not mandatory, but strongly recommended!)
What happens this week?

**Wednesday**

10:00–15:00  Practical writing, part I, *Ingerid Straume*

**Thursday**

10:00–15:00  Practical writing, part II, *Ingerid Straume*

**The coming weeks**

Write a scientific essay (about 10 pages) to be approved by your supervisor; deadline 1st June.
What happens this week?

Friday

9:45 Information from The career services at the University of Oslo
10:00 Using Zotero for bibliographic information
11:15 Bib\LaTeX for \LaTeX bibliographies or EndNote for Word bibliographies (in Smalltalk)
A bit of advice

You should read 2–3 other master’s theses.

**DUO**

All the master’s theses presented at the University of Oslo are kept in a digital library called DUO; see [https://www.duo.uio.no/?locale-attribute=en](https://www.duo.uio.no/?locale-attribute=en).

**The library**

Go to the library on the ground floor — the librarians will help you to select some theses in your field.
A few final reminders

1. Your **master study** plan:
   All accepted students have been notified.

2. You **master project** plan:
   Most have delivered; final deadline 1st February.
   (If you have not yet found a project, see [http://www.mn.uio.no/ifi/studier/masteroppgaver/](http://www.mn.uio.no/ifi/studier/masteroppgaver/).)

3. Register for your courses:
   First deadline is 11th January; final deadline is 1st February.

4. Pay your semester fee:
   Deadline is 1st February.

If you have any problems or questions, contact the study consultants on the 4th floor!