

Writing Your Bachelor's Thesis

This guide aims at telling you what you need to know if you decide to write your Bachelor's Thesis with me as your supervisor. In a first step, I am going to walk you through the whole process. In a second step, I will provide you with information on what I expect of a thesis at this level, the specific requirements of the different Bachelor's degree programs and on registering for the thesis.

1. The Process

Brainstorming

Sign up for one of my office hours to let me know that you want me to supervise your thesis. We can brainstorm together or discuss ideas that you already have in mind.



Coming up with the Thesis Paper Proposal

Next, you put your ideas into concrete terms and come up with a thesis paper proposal. You will have to look at at least some of your primary sources, research some secondary sources and read them. Your proposal should include a tentative title, a provisional (hypo)thesis, a preliminary structure, the primary sources you want to focus on and some secondary sources. Include two or three bullet points for each chapter you intend to write, telling me what you want to do in this chapter. The proposal will give us an idea if your topic is too narrow or too broad, what your primary sources are, and if your hypothesis is good and arguable.



Discussing your Thesis Paper Proposal

Come to my office hour again to discuss your proposal. Please email it to me a few days before our appointment. This makes it easier for me to give you helpful feedback. At the end of our meeting, we will decide if you should revise your proposal or move on to the next step.



Revising your Thesis Paper Proposal / Starting Research and Writing for Real

Depending on what we decided, your next step will either be a revision of the proposal, or to start researching and writing for real. Note that until you officially register for your thesis, nothing is set in stone. If you encounter problems during the initial writing phase, you can always alter or even change your topic.



Officially Registering for your Bachelor's Thesis

When you've got a hang of your topic, meaning that you did the research, maybe already wrote a couple of pages, and most importantly feel comfortable with your topic, you should officially register for your Bachelor's thesis (see below for the specific requirements of the registration process).



Writing your Bachelor's Thesis

Once you have received a letter from the Prüfungsamt indicating when the thesis is due, your official writing phase begins. Note that you can always schedule more meetings with me if you encounter any problems. If you feel very uncertain, I can give you feedback on some pages that you already wrote. However, I will not be able to read and comment on a whole chapter or the finished draft. I do not have the time for this, and it would be unfair to other students.



Submitting your Bachelor's Thesis

After you completed the writing process, edited it/gave the paper to other people to proofread it for you, and made sure that everything is finalized, you hand your Bachelor's Thesis in as stipulated by the Prüfungsamt on its website. Whereas handing in your thesis too late is not acceptable, note that you can of course always submit your thesis earlier (N.B. even handing it in a few weeks or a month earlier is perfectly fine).

2. What Do I Expect?

Most importantly, you do not have to come up with an original idea in your thesis. If you do, that's great but do not pressure yourself. Confirming what other scholars have already said, is perfectly fine. It is important, however, that you do not merely sum up what others have already argued. Instead, you should work with your primary sources yourself and engage critically with your secondary sources. What is most important to me is that you have a clear thesis that you state explicitly in your introduction, argue in your main part and sum up in your conclusion. Finally, I also expect you to format your paper properly, to avoid typos and to quote and list all works that you cite in the correct way.

3. Facts: How Do I Register for the Bachelor's Thesis and How Much Time Do I Have for Writing my Thesis?

a. B.A. Degree Programs

→ B.A. IAS (PO WS 2016/17) and B.A. Anglistik/Amerikanistik (PO WS 2017/18)

- 'Officially' (more on that below) you have **10 weeks** to complete your B.A. Thesis
- Your B.A. Thesis should approximately be **30 pages long** (i.e., text without bibliography)

b. B.Ed. Degree Programs

→ B.Ed. Englisch (PO SS 2015)

- 'Officially' (more on that below) you have **5 weeks** to complete your B.Ed. Thesis
- Your B.Ed. Thesis should approximately be **25 pages long** (i.e., text without bibliography)

I. Registering for the thesis

→ **Before you register**

- Depending on your degree program, you must have successfully completed the following modules:
 - B.A. Anglistik/Amerikanistik (PO *before* WS 2017/18): Focus Modules I & II
 - B.A. Anglistik/Amerikanistik (PO WS 2017/18): Focus Module I (EAS_BA_10)
 - B.A. IAS (PO WS 2016/17): Focus Modules Themes (IAS_BA_10) & Research (IAS_BA_11)
 - B.Ed. (PO SS 2018): Advanced Module Literary *or* Cultural Studies (depending on the focus of your B.Ed. thesis)
- You must have **reached out** to me to inform me about your choice to write your thesis with me
- We must have discussed your **thesis paper proposal** in one of my office hours
- You should only '**officially**' register for your thesis once you have started writing and are certain that you will be able to meet the deadline (N.B. since this is unofficial information, you will **not** find this in your POs)

official part

unofficial part

→ **Registering for your B.A. Thesis / B.Ed Thesis** (this information applies to all B.A. degree programs)

- Once you are happy with your topic and how your writing is coming along, you register for your thesis **via the PA.**
- In order to register for your thesis, you first have to fill out the **official Application for Approval of a BA Thesis form** (you can download the form and all other relevant documents for the registration here: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/140962>)
- After filling out the official admittance form, you submit it to the Prüfungsamt via email (pa@philosophie.uni-tuebingen.de). The Prüfungsamt will then check if you meet the criteria for registering for your Bachelor's thesis (i.e., if you have

completed all required modules, see above), will email the official registration form to you or to me. Together we will then fill in the title of your thesis.

- Lastly, I have to sign the registration form. The registration process is complete as soon as we submit the final registration with my signature at the Prüfungsamt (pa@philosophie.uni-tuebingen.de).
- The Prüfungsamt will inform you about your deadline via e-mail.
- Note that the title you put on the registration form and the title of your final B.A. / B.Ed. Thesis are to be **identical**, meaning that the title cannot be changed again after registration has been completed.)

II. Submitting the thesis

- On the day your thesis is due (or earlier) submit the copy/copies as indicated by the Prüfungsamt. Whether the copy is to be sent as a PDF file or a hard copy, to me or someone else, all that information is provided to you by the Prüfungsamt after you register your thesis.
- Your thesis has to contain the following:
 - Front matter with **complete header** (your name, student ID (Matrikelnummer), semester, degree program, address, date of submission, e-mail address (N.B. please make sure to provide **both** your student and a private e-mail address if you intend to disenroll from the University of Tübingen, since your student e-mail address will be deleted shortly after your exmatriculation.), my name).
 - Table of Contents
 - Chapter
 - Works Cited
 - Antiplagiarism declaration (*you can find the text published by the exam office on their webpage here: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/140962>*)

4. General Formatting Tips

- 1.5 spacing
- 12 pt font size for Times New Roman
- 11 pt font size for Arial
- Justify your text.

5. Proposal Sample

Although this is the sample for a term paper proposal, your thesis paper proposal should generally look as follows:

Sabrina Spellman (1234567)
B.A. Interdisciplinary American Studies
Prof. Dr. Michael Butter
Winter Term 2025/26

BA Thesis Proposal: Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*

Tentative Title: Demanding Women and Hostile Men: Gender and Marriage in Hitchcock's *Rear Window*

Hypothesis: *Rear Window* reflects many 1950s concerns about changing gender roles and marriage. It echoes common fears about emasculated men and overbearing women and depicts marriage in a fairly ambiguous manner.

Preliminary Structure

1. Introduction
2. The Crisis of Masculinity
In this chapter I want to focus on: Jeff's desire for freedom, Jeff's immaturity and cruelty, and allusions to homosexuality
(Note: these are not subchapters but merely give me an idea of what you would like to do in this chapter; you have to include a few bullet points on what you would like to do in each chapter in order for me to provide helpful feedback).
3. Femininity under Construction
In this chapter I want to focus on: Lisa and the male gaze, Lisa and Stella as examples of female competence and activity, the reaffirmation of traditional female gender roles
4. Marriage: Hopes and Anxieties
In this chapter I want to focus on: Marriage as a trap, Marriage as a sign of maturity, Gender and marriage, the ideal of "togetherness"
5. Conclusion

Works Cited

Belton, John, editor. *Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window*. Cambridge UP, 2000.
Fawell, John. *Hitchcock's Rear Window: The Well-Made Film*. Southern Illinois UP, 2001.
---. "Torturing Women and Mocking Men: Hitchcock's *Rear Window*." *Midwest Quarterly*, vol. 44, no. 1, 2002, pp. 88–104.
Rear Window. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Paramount Pictures, 1954.