

**PJIWGS THESIS (2.0 credits):**

**Guidelines for PJIWGS MA students and Supervisors**

The Master's Thesis (Thesis) is an academic essay (worth 2.0 credits) that engages in original research and/or analysis of empirical, theoretical or archival material. The topic is open to any historical or contemporary subject, but must be focused on a theme relevant to women's and gender studies, and it must demonstrate an appropriate and sophisticated use of theoretical and methodological approaches to the discipline. Theses are normally between 80 and 125 pages in length. Theses may employ either the Chicago, MLA, or APA style for citation and all theses must include a 100 to 150 word abstract.

Students are encouraged to build on and develop aspects of their completed course work for the Thesis, but, given its focus on original research, the Thesis must differ demonstrably from course work already submitted for credit.

The Thesis will be examined at a formal defence convened by the Faculty of Graduate and Post Doctoral Affairs (FGPA). See the FGPA website for details on the defence process.

Students and supervisors are encouraged to work closely together to produce a strong final document. A significant block of time (e.g. 4-5 months) should be set aside for writing and revising the thesis. Typically, Master's students tend to submit 3 or 4 draft versions of their thesis before it is finally accepted for defence and, as thesis supervisors have a range of responsibilities (including other students), turnaround time may not be immediate.

The FGPA Calendar has the following statement on the MA Thesis:

**12.2 Master's Thesis**

The master's thesis should exhibit a competence in the research process by applying an existing body of knowledge in the critical analysis of a new question or of a specific problem or issue in a new setting. On the basis of that conceptual understanding and methodological competence, it should demonstrate at least one of the following:

1. the development and support of a sustained argument in written form
2. originality in the application of knowledge

## **Oral Examinations**

Students are required to undertake an oral examination of the thesis. Please refer to Thesis Specifications, Section 12.5, Master's, for submission deadlines. The master's thesis will be examined by a board consisting of at least four members, including the thesis supervisor, the chair of the department concerned, an examiner from a department other than that of the candidate, and one additional member from the department concerned. The chair of the department concerned will announce the constitution of the examination board. See Thesis Examination Policy at <http://carleton.ca/fgpa/thesis-requirements/>.

For additional details on the Examination/Defence process, please see:

<http://gradstudents.carleton.ca/wp-content/uploads/Thesis-Examination-Policy-Revised-26-July-2013.pdf>

## **Master's Thesis**

Master's students expecting to graduate at the Spring Convocation must submit their thesis to their supervisor, in examinable form, by March 1. Master's students expecting to graduate in the Fall Graduation must submit their thesis by August 1. Master's students expecting to graduate at the Winter Graduation must submit their thesis by December 1.

We acknowledge that we have read this form and the related material.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

PJIWGS Graduate Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_