

SOCIAL SCIENCES / HUMANITIES THESIS

Evaluation Criteria for NM4401 Honours Thesis

1. Introduction: Does the author establish a sufficient justification for the study, giving enough background information to adequately explain the topic?
2. Literature Review: Does the author introduce the theory/theories relevant to the study, clearly outlining what scholars have found so far?
3. Literature Review: Does the author adequately discuss the limitations of the current work in the area, especially limitations related to the thesis research question?
4. Literature Review: Do the theories, theoretical framework, and concepts employed establish clearly the author's position/main argument?
5. Research Statement and/or Hypothesis: Is the research question and/or hypothesis clearly articulated?
6. Methodology: Does the author explain why each, or a particular, methodology was used and why it best addresses the research question and/or hypothesis?
7. Methodology: Does the author establish that the thesis is primary research, clearly describing the methods and subjects used?
8. Findings: Does the author include analysis of the data collected to answer the research question and/or hypotheses?
9. Findings: Does the author link the theoretical framework to the study in a coherent analysis?
10. Discussion/Conclusion: Are the conclusions well developed and supported by the evidence presented in the findings section, with the author refraining from bringing in new ideas or concepts?
11. Discussion/Conclusion: Does the author clearly identify the original contribution the thesis makes to the existing body of knowledge?
12. Discussion/Conclusion: Does the author clearly identify the limitations of the thesis' results?
13. Discussion/Conclusion: Does the author suggest directions for further research?

Overall:

14. Is the thesis well written in standard English, with minimal grammatical and/or spelling errors?
15. Is the thesis written in a scholarly fashion, with adequate use of citations using a recognized style, such as APA, MLA, Harvard, or Chicago Style?
16. Are all concepts explained clearly, accurately, and unambiguously?
17. Does the thesis show evidence of critical thinking, of a 'mind at work'?
18. Is the overall thesis and/or analysis sufficiently complex and sophisticated?
19. Does the thesis reflect originality, creativity or innovation in topic selection, research, or methodology?
20. Does the author properly include a list of references and any materials relevant to the study (e.g., questionnaire, stimulus, interview script, coding scheme, etc.)?