B.A. THESIS

I. GENERAL REMARKS

Students with English as a major (domaine I / Hauptbereich) have to write a B.A thesis worth 10 ECTS credits in their final year. Once they have completed modules LP 1 and 2 as well as EL 1 and EL 2 they can register for the B.A. thesis on GESTENS as for any regular course. The rules for modules with incomplete work apply as explained under IV.C in the New B.A. Programme of May 2007.

Students can choose freely whether they want to write this thesis in Linguistics, Philology, English or American Literature within certain restrictions as to the number of students any teacher will supervise. It is therefore recommended that students contact their potential supervisors well ahead of the deadline for the official registration (see below) to express their interest and to discuss the topic they intend to tackle. A list with the teachers’ areas of interest and specialisation can be found on the General Notice Board and on our website http://www.unifr.ch/das.

II. REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION

Students should register on GESTENS for the B.A. thesis at the beginning of each semester. Once students have registered for the thesis module on GESTENS, their registration is definitive and they have to submit their B.A. thesis to the Secretary of the Department at the end of the spring semester (30 May) respectively at the end of the autumn semester (20 December). If a student is unable to complete a thesis in the semester of original registration, the thesis will be carried over into the next semester and can be submitted at the next deadline.

III. SIZE AND CONTENT

Students are expected to write a scientific paper of 10,500 to 14,000 words (30 – 40 pp.) on a topic of their choice. In this thesis, they have to demonstrate that they are capable of undertaking a sustained piece of independent work on a topic chosen in consultation with their supervisor. Students are expected to show wide reading and reflection, a clear, well-structured and convincing argumentation, as well as a high degree of skill and competence in research methods and critical evaluation. The thesis can take the form of a critical presentation of the state of research in the relevant field of study.

For the layout of these theses as well as any other formal requirements (quotations, footnotes, etc.), please refer to the departmental style-sheets for literature and linguistics respectively, which are available on our website and from the Secretary of the Department.

IV. GRADE

The B.A. thesis is graded on a scale from 1 – 6 (incl. half grades) like all the other courses in the English Department. The thesis grade counts three times as much as the other module grades, which means that it makes up 1/3 of the final B.A. grade (see also the B.A. Programme under section IV) ‘Assessments and Grades’).