REGULATION FOR ESSAY/THESIS WRITING IN THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMME "DIGITAL APPLICATIONS IN ARTS AND CULTURE" OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES, DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE



KOMOTINI 2024

Article 1

General

The Regulation for the Preparation of Assignments of the Undergraduate Studies Programme (USP) "Digital Applications in Arts and Culture" (DAAC) of the Department of Humanities (DH) at Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) applies to: a) the assignments prepared by students enrolled in the USP DAAC as a method of assessment/examination for semester courses, and b) the thesis, which is optional and undertaken during the students' final year of study. The thesis is equivalent to ten (10) ECTS credits, replacing two (2) elective courses (5 ECTS each).

Article 2

Purpose and Objectives of Essay Writing

The purpose of essay writing for a semester course or a thesis is for students to gain experience in research methodology and the writing of scientific papers.

The specific objectives of essay writing include:

- Engaging with and deepening students' understanding of topics related to the course content.
- Utilizing and synthesizing the knowledge and skills acquired during their studies.
- Examining approaches and attempts to solve specific scientific problems related to the course.
- Training students in bibliographic research, primarily.
- Developing synthetic thinking and critical analysis.
- Gaining experience in the scientific formulation of problems, designing, selecting, and implementing methods or tools, conducting studies, evaluating results, and finally, writing scientific papers, as well as presenting them in written and oral formats (if oral presentation is required).
- Becoming familiar with the writing of a scientific paper in the form of a journal article or a conference announcement.
- Developing the ability to collaborate in small groups (in the case of group projects).
- Enhancing the skill of summarizing and orally presenting key findings in class (if an oral presentation is required).

Article 3

Procedures for Semester Course Essay Writing

- 1. Emphasis is placed on producing high-quality essays that equip students with significant skills and inspire innovative solutions, while recognizing the students' potential and capabilities.
- 2. Supervisors/examiners of semester course essays are the instructors teaching the courses. Co-supervisors or co-examiners may include faculty members (DEP or EDIP) of the Department, provided they hold a doctoral degree.
- 3. Essay topics for semester courses are posted by the instructor on the course page on the eClass platform before the semester begins. On the first day of the course, the instructor informs students about the evaluation method and whether written

essays are optional or mandatory, whether they will be the sole form of evaluation or part of the formative assessment, and the process for students to choose a topic for individual or group work. The instructor also informs students if the submission of the essay will include an oral presentation in class. The essay topics must fall within the subject matter of the specific course and its applications, offering a variety of choices for students.

- 4. Students may also propose their own topics, which are finalized in consultation with the instructors.
- 5. Students select their essay topic at the beginning of the semester, within the deadlines announced by the instructor. After choosing a topic, students contact the instructor in writing to declare their chosen topic and group members (in the case of group work) by the deadline, as announced.
- 6. Essays are completed individually by each student (or in specific cases, in groups).
- 7. The completion and submission of a semester course essay must occur during the examination period for the course. If the essay is not completed by the end of the semester and specifically by the examination date as listed in the Examination Period Programme, the course will be recorded as incomplete by the Department's Secretariat.
- 8. The student submits the full text of the essay to the instructor on the date set by the instructor, through the eClass platform. Upon submission, the essay is automatically checked for similarity with available literature using the Turnitin application. The maximum allowable similarity percentage, excluding references, is 20%. If an oral presentation is required, the submission deadline is set at least one (1) week before the presentation date.
- 9. The presentation and evaluation of essays take place in class or online at the end of the semester, with the date being announced at least fifteen (15) days in advance.
- 10. The presentation of the essay lasts 10-15 minutes. The total time for the presentation and discussion should not exceed 20-30 minutes.
- 11. As part of the evaluation, the student is asked questions related to the essay by the instructor. Other students present also have the opportunity to ask questions.
- 12. The evaluation is deemed successful if the final grade is between five (5) and ten (10). If the essay receives a grade lower than five (5), the student must resubmit either the same essay (with the recommended corrections) or a new essay during the September examination period.

Article 4

Procedures for the Bachelor Thesis

- 1. During their final year of study (8th semester), students of the Department may choose to undertake a bachelor thesis in place of two Elective courses.
- 2. The selection of a bachelor thesis topic is made from the thematic areas proposed by faculty members (DEP or EDIP) of the Department, provided they hold a doctoral degree. The proposed topics are posted by the Secretariat on the Department's website.
- 3. Interested students, after consulting with the faculty member supervising the topic (thesis supervisor), and after declaring the bachelor thesis in their Course Enrolment, must submit a special application to the Secretariat to request approval for undertaking the bachelor thesis (see Appendix A). The application must be co-

signed by the supervisor and receive a protocol number from the Department Secretariat.

- 4. The thesis supervisor can be a faculty member (DEP or EDIP) of the Department. Supervising a bachelor thesis is voluntary for all DEP and EDIP members and is recognized as part of their teaching responsibilities. Faculty members on academic leave for even one semester cannot supervise theses. Each DEP or EDIP member may supervise up to three (3) bachelor theses. Faculty members submit their thesis topics to the Department in advance for the upcoming academic year. Once approved by the Department Assembly, the available topics are posted no later than September 30th of each academic year. Thesis assignments are made by the Department Assembly. The examining committee consists of the thesis supervisor and another DEP or EDIP member.
- 5. Students interested in undertaking a bachelor thesis must declare it in their 8th Semester Course Enrolment, replacing two Elective courses. Additionally, during the enrolment period for the 8th semester and no later than one month after the deadline for renewals, students must submit a thesis declaration, as outlined in Appendix A.
- 6. The expected submission time for a bachelor thesis is one (1) academic semester (8th semester). Extensions are granted only for reasons of force majeure, with the supervisor's approval. Extensions may also be granted upon a well-justified request by the student and approval by the Department Assembly, taking into consideration the supervisor's opinion. A student may request, once, to change their thesis topic or supervisor with a justified request to the Department Assembly. The new assignment is approved by the Department Assembly. A student may also withdraw from the thesis at any time by submitting a simple request to the Department.
- 7. If more than one student is interested in the same thesis topic, the supervisor selects the student based on the following criteria: a) The student's average grade across all courses, b) The average grade in courses related to the student's chosen direction, c) The student's level of foreign language proficiency (assessed by the supervisor), d) The outcome of an oral interview.
- 8. Along with the thesis topic declaration, students must submit a declaration regarding the Research Ethics and Conduct Guidelines, according to the University's Internal Regulations (see Appendix B). Upon submission, the thesis is checked for similarity with available literature using the Turnitin software. The maximum allowable similarity percentage, excluding references, is 20%.
- 9. If the thesis is accepted by the examining committee, it is submitted in electronic form and as one (1) printed and bound copy, which, upon completion of the process, is submitted to the Department Library. The full text of an approved thesis may be posted on the Department's website, with the student's consent and a signed declaration that the thesis is their own work (see Appendix B). The Department must compile a complete list of approved theses and post it on the website. If part or the entire thesis is published, the student's name must be included on the title page.
- 10. The public defence of bachelor theses can take place on any working day of the academic year, in the classroom or online, at the end of the semester, with the defence date being announced at least fifteen (15) days in advance.
- 11. The thesis presentation lasts 10-15 minutes. The total duration of the presentation and discussion should not exceed 20-30 minutes.

- 12. The defence is conducted before the examining committee, which prepares the relevant Thesis Evaluation Report (see Appendix F). Faculty members, specialists, and students of the Department may attend the thesis defence. Questions from the audience can only be submitted in writing through the examining committee.
- 13. The defence is deemed successful if the final grade is between five (5) and ten (10).
- 14. The thesis should be between 10,000 and 14,000 words, excluding the bibliography and any appendices.

Article 5

Obligations of Instructors When Assigning a Course Essay

- For the instructor, supervising a course essay or a bachelor thesis is considered an important educational activity.
- Specifically, for course essays, assigning essays as a method of student evaluation is the instructor's prerogative. They may choose this evaluation method if they believe it will enhance students' learning experience. The instructor informs students of the essay assignments as a form of course assessment and announces the topics on the first day of the semester. The topics are also posted on the relevant course page on the eClass platform before the start of the semester. The topics must be clear, with an estimated completion time that allows the essay to be finished within the semester, without hindering students' ability to fulfil their other academic obligations during the semester.
- The instructor is responsible for supervising the essay, providing clarifications, and monitoring its progress within the set time frame.
- The instructor ensures adherence to academic integrity by checking for signs of plagiarism using the University's Turnitin system.
- The instructor evaluates students' essays based on established evaluation criteria (see Appendix C) or according to their own criteria, provided these were communicated to students before the start of the semester.
- The instructor provides written feedback on students' essays, offering corrections and examples of best practices for improvement.

Article 6

Student Preparation for Writing an Essay

It is important for the student to follow the steps below before and during the writing of an essay:

- Understand the topics discussed during the course lectures.
- Carefully and critically study the bibliography and the lecture notes.
- Be capable of conducting bibliographic research aimed at the proper formulation, justification, and synthesis of their arguments.
- Be able to present their arguments in a convincing and effective manner.

Article 7

Key Characteristics of an Essay

 A fundamental feature of an essay is that it has a central topic, meaning a specific issue to be investigated. This main topic is articulated in the initial (introductory) section of the essay, where the key expected findings and the structure of the essay are outlined. The topic under discussion must be clearly defined and specific. An essay has limited space for argument development, so the more clearly the main topic is stated, the easier it becomes to identify the relevant bibliography and to present arguments.

- The essay must be objective, meaning it should be based on reliable published sources (monographs, articles in academic journals, reputable online sources). Arguments should always be supported by references to the literature.
- The students must demonstrate that they have studied and understood the key issues discussed in the relevant (Greek and international) literature. Additionally, the students should show some originality in addressing the topic, either by referencing additional sources that offer a new perspective on the issue or by presenting a personal argument supported by sources. A simple summary or patchwork of the literature, without some form of original or critical evaluation, should be avoided.

Article 8

Evaluation of an Essay

- 1. The criteria for evaluating an essay vary depending on the specific research issue and the scientific field. In general, however, an essay is assessed based on the completeness of its content, the degree to which the student meets the topic's requirements, and the successful presentation and examination. Criteria for a successful grading also include the correct structure of the text's sections, understanding and, to some extent, critical evaluation of previous research findings, proper substantiation of opinions and arguments, as well as the organization, formatting, and expression of the content.
- 2. The grade for an essay is determined by considering the student's fulfilment of the obligations specified during the writing process, the quality of the written work, the quality of the presentation (if applicable), and the adequacy of responses to questions during the presentation and examination (if applicable).
- 3. The following criteria are considered important for the successful grading of an essay (for specific criteria, see Appendix C):
- A) Knowledge and Understanding of the Topic
 - Knowledge and understanding of theories and findings discussed in the course lectures and relevant literature.
 - Focus on the main issues of the topic and synthesis of similar viewpoints from different authors.
 - Summary of the positions from the literature, written in the student's own words.
 - Correlation of research findings from the literature with the topic examined in the essay.
- B) Critical Evaluation of Literature Findings
 - Description, summary, and critical evaluation of literature findings.

- Use of comparison and contrast to highlight the strengths and limitations of previous research.
- o Identification of unanswered questions.

C) Proper Documentation and Argumentation

- Effective support of the reasoning developed. Simply presenting claims is not considered effective. All claims must be substantiated with evidence, which includes the analysis and interpretation of the presented findings.
- Use of valid and reliable methodology in research-based papers that require the collection and analysis of quantitative or qualitative data.

D) Additional Criteria for Successful Grading Include:

 Proper organization and structure of the sections within the paper, correct citation methods, appropriate formatting of the content, and effective writing and expression style.

Article 9

Guidelines for Writing an Essay

General and specific guidelines are provided for students regarding the composition, structure, content, and formatting of their essay.

Structure of the Essay

The typical structure of an essay, despite specific variations depending on the subject, is proposed as follows:

Cover Page

The cover page includes the Department's logo, the title of the study programme and the specific specialization, the title of the paper, the student(s)' full name(s), the instructor's name, and the place and date of submission. See Appendices D and E for semester essays and theses.

Title

The final title, which briefly describes the content of the essay and immediately informs the reader, should be determined during the final stage of writing.

Structured Abstract (up to 300 words on a separate page)

The abstract presents a summary of the essay's main points and conclusions, along with a brief mention of the goals and methodology used. Following the abstract, five (5) keywords that capture the essay's scientific identity should be listed. The abstract and keywords should not exceed one page.

Table of Contents

It should include the following with corresponding page numbers:

- Chapter titles (numbered 1, 2, etc.)
- Subheadings within chapters (numbered 1.1, 1.2, etc.)

- Inner subheadings (numbered 1.1.2.1, etc.)
- Appendices, numbered with capital letters A, B, C, with respective titles (e.g., "Guidelines," "Tables")
- List of Tables
- List of Figures or Photos
- List of Diagrams

Introduction

The introduction should include:

- A brief description and delimitation of the subject, along with reference to related research directions and gaps in the literature.
- The scope and methodology of the essay.
- The objectives and anticipated contributions of the study.
- The structure of the essay.

The introduction provides a clear overview of the essay's topic but avoids presenting arguments or opinions. It should introduce the main topic, the student's stance, the structure of the essay, the methodology, and a brief reference to the findings.

Purpose and Objectives of the Essay

This section outlines clearly and concisely the purpose and specific objectives of the essay.

Materials and Methods

This section presents key elements of the methodology used in the research. It may include:

- Databases used for research
- Keywords used in searches
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria for articles (e.g., publication year, language)

Main Text

The main text is divided into chapters, detailing the subject, discussing the topic, and reviewing the literature. The section should be broken into sub-sections and paragraphs to focus on specific aspects of the research. It discusses the main scientific questions and the responses given in previous studies.

Generally, the main text presents:

- a) The theoretical background/framework of the topic, which includes a brief literature review of the subject being examined, and
- b) The reasoning and the main points of the student's arguments. Equal emphasis is placed on all arguments and topics of the paper to ensure the harmonious development of the paragraphs/sections. The paragraphs/sections are interconnected through a common reference to the main topic, and each paragraph

or sentence is linked to the next with words or phrases that indicate the structure of the text (e.g., "also," "subsequently," "therefore").

More specifically:

- Historical overview (other related studies papers records efforts data mentioned in the literature).
- New elements or knowledge that have emerged and are introduced for examination and study.
- Theoretical background (if applicable), describing the theoretical foundation of the subject.
- Empirical data or practices, if available.
- Topic analysis, breaking it down into structural sections.

Discussion

Commentary and synthesis of the overall results. What do they mean? How are they interpreted? What is their significance? Why are they important? What do other studies specifically suggest in comparison with the results of this study? Is there any theory supporting these results (even if it does not hold true for the sample from these results)? Comparison with the objectives set. Study limitations: Methodological or specific reasons why the results may not be generalizable to all populations, etc.

Conclusions

Overall general conclusions of the study. Care should be taken to avoid repeating what has been mentioned in previous sections. The conclusions summarize all the findings. The epilogue reflects what was stated in the introduction/position of the paper. No new arguments, positions, or references to literature should be presented. However, it is possible to refer to related issues that are not covered by this particular paper and may interest the reader, always within the boundaries of the specific topic.

Bibliographical references

The purpose of citing the bibliography is to provide the reader with all the necessary information to locate the scientific publications. Therefore, absolute accuracy in writing is required.

Globally, various citation systems have been developed over time, differing in the way bibliographic information is structured and presented. All systems provide the same information, but each has its unique requirements. Therefore, only one system should be used when writing your paper. The most widely used citation formats are: APA System, MLA System, and Chicago System (see links below).

Depending on the type of paper and in consultation with the supervising professor, the student can choose which system to use.

https://guides.library.uq.edu.au/referencing/apa7

https://guides.library.uq.edu.au/referencing/mla9

https://guides.library.uq.edu.au/referencing/chicago17-notes-bibliography

Appendices

The appendices include data tables or specialized texts (e.g., questionnaires, templates, guidelines) that are utilized in the paper but are not included in the main text to maintain its coherence. The numbering of the appendices is done using uppercase Greek letters (A, B, C, etc.).

Article 10

Guidelines for Formatting the Text of an Essay

Each copy of an essay must be bound using the cover and the first page template.

Text Formatting

The paper is written on A4-sized paper, and the text should be formatted with margins of 3 cm from both the left and right edges, while the margins from the top and bottom edges of the page are 2.5 cm. The text must be typed in a 12pt font size with double line spacing, and any footnotes, if present, should be in 10pt font size. The first paragraph of each section should not have a first-line indent, while the following paragraphs should have a first-line indent.

Page Numbering

The introductory pages are numbered with lowercase Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, etc.). The main body pages are numbered with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.).

Tables

Tables should be placed as close as possible to the text that refers to them and should be left-aligned. They must be appropriately numbered, and the title is placed above the table. The source of the table is mentioned below it.

Charts and Images

Charts and images should be placed as close as possible to the text that refers to them, centered on the page, and numbered accordingly. The title of the chart is placed below it, and the source is mentioned beneath each chart or image.

Article 11

Plagiarism

1. Plagiarism is defined as "the use of the idea and text of another scientist/writer without clear recognition of the source of the information." Plagiarism during the writing of any scientific paper, including the writing of semester essays or a thesis, is an academically, ethically, and legally condemnable practice. Therefore, any use of verbatim or directly translated text must be indicated by the author of the paper in

an appropriate manner (e.g., "using quotation marks and italics"), should only involve a small number of words within the limits permitted by law, and must be accompanied by a bibliographic reference to the source. Based on the aforementioned, recognizing the importance of academic integrity and aiming to ensure quality and scientific ethics, the final text of the essays/theses will be checked for indications of plagiarism using an electronic system available at the DUTH for this purpose. If the phenomenon of plagiarism is detected during the review of the essay/thesis, it will be revised following the recommendations of the instructor. The opinions and conclusions contained in the paper exclusively represent the student and do not reflect the official positions of the institution. Article 198 of the Internal Regulation of DUTH contains the "Basic Principles of the DUTH Code of Ethics", while Appendix 27 of the same regulation contains the "Code of Ethics and Good Practice" of DUTH.

2. Cases of plagiarism include:

- The use of ideas, theories, conclusions, or excerpts from the work of any researcher without reference to the corresponding citation.
- The failure to use quotation marks for excerpts or phrases that are taken verbatim from a source.
- The commissioning of someone else to write a paper.
- The falsification of information or data.
- The verbatim or paraphrased translation of text from a foreign source without reference to the source.
- The use of research data, statistical charts, tables, images, photographs, and other audiovisual material without reference to the source or the appropriation of the aforementioned material.

Article 12

Final Provisions

This regulation comes into effect upon its approval by the Senate of DUTH and is published on the Department's website for the information of students and instructors. Changes to the provisions of this regulation may be made following a written proposal by the Chairperson, by the Department Assembly, or by members of the Department Assembly.

Appendix A: Application for approval to write a Bachelor's Thesis

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO WRITE A BACHELOR'S THESIS

	Date
To	Protocol No.:
To:	manition
The Secretariat of the Department of Hu	manities
LAST	
NAME:	
FIRST	
Father's Name:	
Semester of Study:	
Student ID	
Number:	
Contact Phone Number:	
email:	
I kindly request the approval for the writ	
Title of Thesis in Greek:	
Title of Thesis in English:	
_	
DURATION OF WRITING: 1 Academic Sei	mostor
The Applicant	
тте Аррисант	The Supervisor
	C'a sal sa
Signature	Signature
	(= U.).
(Full Name)	(Full Name, Title)

Appendix B: Statement of Compliance with Ethical and Research Integrity Guidelines

"The Bachelor's Thesis is a product of intellectual property, both of the author and of the institution, and must possess a unique character and original content. I understand that it is strictly prohibited for any part of the text to appear verbatim or translated from any other published source. Any such act constitutes plagiarism and raises ethical issues regarding the intellectual property rights of the other author. I, as the author of the Bachelor's Thesis, am solely responsible for any potential plagiarism and bear full responsibility for the consequences, both criminal and otherwise, of this act."

Appendix C: Evaluation Criteria for the Thesis

Evaluation Criteria	Description
Title Dage	Briefly summarizes the content of the thesis and
Title Page (5 points)	immediately informs the reader.
(5 points)	Follows the required formatting.
	States the main topic of the thesis.
	Expresses the author's position/view on the topic.
Introduction	Mentions the structure of the thesis.
(15 points)	Explains the methodology followed.
(15 points)	Briefly refers to the results, without details.
	Captivates the reader's interest regarding the
	significance of the topic under examination.
	Presents the theoretical background/context of the
	topic.
	Provides a brief literature review of the topic.
	Critically addresses the literature.
Main Body	Analyzes the author's reasoning based on structured
(30 points)	arguments.
(00 po0)	Develops the arguments or subtopics of the thesis
	equally and ensures harmonious development of
	paragraphs/sections.
	Connects paragraphs/sections with a common
	reference to the main topic.
	Provides a concise presentation of the previously
	discussed arguments in a summary.
	 Reflects what was stated in the introduction/position of the thesis.
Conclusions	Does not add new arguments, positions, or references
(20 points)	to the literature.
	May reference related issues not covered by the
	current study that would be of interest to the reader
	(always within the limits of the topic).
	Clearly differentiates between results and hypotheses.
	Citations are made for all sources used.
	No quote/reference is included without a stated
References/Citations	source.
(15 points)	All references, quotes, and citations are formatted
	correctly.
	All references, etc., are directly related to the topic of

Evaluation Criteria	Description			
	the thesis.			
Grammar, Syntax, Vocabulary, Style (10 points)	 Correct organization of paragraphs. Sections logically organize the paragraphs within them (introduction, main body, conclusions). Absence of grammatical, syntactic, spelling, and typographical errors. Appropriate choice of terminology, vocabulary, and style relevant to the topic. 			
Overall Formatting (5 points)	The entire thesis follows the required formatting.			
Total Points	100			

Appendix D: Title/Cover Page of a Semester Course Essay

DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE SCHOOL OF CLASSICS AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

PROGRAMME OF STUDIES "DIGITAL APPLICATIONS IN ARTS AND CULTURE"

[Essay title]

[Student's Full Name] Student ID No: [...]

[Course Title]

Instructor: [...]

Academic Year: [...] - [...]

Appendix E: Title/Cover Page of Bachelor's Thesis

DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE SCHOOL OF CLASSICS AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

PROGRAMME OF STUDIES "DIGITAL APPLICATIONS IN ARTS AND CULTURE"

BACHELOR'S THESIS
[Essay title]

[Student's Full Name] Student ID No: [...]

Supervisor: [Full name and title]

Academic Year: [...] - [...]

Appendix F: Evaluation Record of Bachelor's Thesis

EVALUATION RECORD OF BACHELOR'S THESIS

				Protocol Number:				
			Date:					
TO:								
The Secretariat of the Department of Humanities								
LAST NAME								
FIRST NAME								
Student ID Number								
Thesis Title								
Supervisor								
Presentation D	Date							
GRADING								
	NAME AN	D	POSITION	GRADE	GRADE			
	SURNAM	E		(in numbers)	(in words)			
SUPERVISOR								
MEMBER								
THE MEMBERS OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE								
Supervisor			Member					
(Full Name, Signature)		e)		(Full Name, Signature)				