Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
M.A. in Foreign Languages, Cultures and Literatures (FLCL)
Thesis Option

Students wishing to pursue the Thesis option for the M.A. in FLCL must work closely with their M.A. committee chair, who serves as the primary advisor. In consultation with the advisor, the student will produce a well-documented and thoroughly argued research project that provides new insights or reflections of critical thinking in the student’s chosen field or subject area. A successful M.A. thesis makes an original scholarly contribution to the field. This requires a great deal of background reading, in addition to thoroughly engaging the primary and secondary sources actually cited in the thesis. The thesis topic will be chosen in consultation with the thesis advisor, who must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member of the FLL department.

Students are advised of the following protocol regarding the Thesis option:

1) In consultation with her/his M.A. advisor, the student will create a thesis proposal consisting of a title, a 1-2 page description of the project, a chapter outline, and a preliminary bibliography. These documents must be approved by the advisor. Upon creating the proposal, the student and the advisor will sign and date one printed copy, which will then be delivered by the student to the Director of Graduate Studies. Students should complete the proposal by the end of their second semester (or before completion of 15 course credit hours), so that the summer can be devoted to reading and further research.

2) The student will prepare a finalized bibliography which will include a selection of primary sources, and relevant secondary sources that clearly outline the current state of criticism in the chosen subject area. Students are expected to complete this step by the beginning of their third full semester of graduate studies (or after completion of 15 course credit hours). The faculty advisor and committee members may suggest additional readings.

3) It is the responsibility of the student to provide consistent and timely drafts of their work to their advisor in the period between the approval of the bibliography and the final defense (which will be set by the student in accordance to their committee’s availability). Failure to do so will jeopardize work towards the degree. Students are encouraged to view the Thesis process as a structured and ongoing learning experience where one-on-one interaction with their advisor is important for success.

4) Students are required, upon consultation with their advisor, to secure the service of two additional faculty members to thereby form their Thesis committee. Students are encouraged to work with faculty whose research intersects with the stated purpose of the Thesis. The inclusion of one faculty member from another University department is acceptable if said faculty member has demonstrated a scholarly trajectory that will be directly beneficial to the student’s research.
5) In order to schedule the date of the thesis defense, the Graduate School requires that students submit the “Request to Admit Candidate to Final Exam” form through the Electronic Signature System at least two weeks prior to your desired exam date. The student’s advisory committee must approve and state that the student is ready to defend. This means that a full and complete version of the thesis should be sent to the faculty members at least FOUR WEEKS prior to the proposed defense date. For deadlines, visit the Graduate School website.

6) Though no two projects are alike, the Thesis is expected to be between 75-100 printed pages (following the MLA style-sheet, inclusive of bibliography and ancillary Graduate School requirements, font Times 12 pt., 1-inch margins), and must state and pursue a cogent line of inquiry and analysis. The thesis must be submitted electronically within two weeks of the defense, and formatted according to Graduate School guidelines.

Students that decide to pursue the Thesis option for the M.A. in FLCL are required to sign and date two copies of this document, which must be delivered to the M.A. advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies respectively.

NAME: 

DATE: 