## Seminar 1

## Purpose

To understand general requirements for a master's level thesis, and to critically review research questions. You will practice writing a thesis plan.

## Finding a partner for the course

All work in the course will be conducted in pairs. You will need to find a partner to work with during the course, and we have set up a [match-making spreadsheet](https://liuonline.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/TDDD89/TDDD89_2018HT_ZS/CollaborativeWorkspace/Thesis%20proposals/Thesis%20pair%20matching.xlsx?d=wdcb02d6db33845168dd66c1c1690289d&csf=1&e=IN8sEY) for you, where you can sign up as a single student seeking a partner for the course. When you have found someone to work with, you can remove your names from the spreadsheet.

## Preparations

After you have found a partner to work with, you will need to begin writing a *thesis plan.* The outline of your *thesis plan* should contain

* Your names and LiU-id:s
* The proposed title of your work
* An initial problem description
* An initial approach to address the problem

The document does not have to be any longer than 1 A4 page. You will have plenty of time to revise it during the course.

Upload your outline to the [*Thesis Proposals* folder on LISAM](https://liuonline.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/TDDD89/TDDD89_2018HT_ZS/CollaborativeWorkspace/Thesis%20proposals?csf=1&e=7ovB5a) in the first week of the course, at the latest **Wednesday, November 7th, 2018.** The thesis outline will be used to assign you to thematic seminar groups with students doing similar theses on **Thursday, November 8th, 2018**.

## Groups

After you have been assigned to a seminar group ([WebReg groups](https://www.ida.liu.se/webreg-beta/TDDD89-2018-1/UPG2/)), you will use LISAM as a platform for collaboration within your groups. You will receive comments from each other during the course in this way through peer-review. You will need to consider the comments that you received by writing short changelogs of how your submission has changed from one seminar to the next. Try to be descriptive in your changelog as to simplify for your peers in understanding your changes.

Most of the feedback from staff will be provided during seminars. However, there are two sessions when staff will give more detailed feedback on your submissions. After the second seminar we will have a dedicated feedback session where you can discuss your submissions with staff, and where we will discuss your research questions. Also, there will be a specific session for feedback on your academic English by Pamela Vang (see the TimeEdit schedule). You are expected to provide detailed enough feedback to each other to help each other in writing good thesis texts, and you will get to train on how to write good feedback during the course.

#### Review

Read the *Introduction*, *Background, Theory and Method* sections of the published master's thesis pertaining to your group and answer the questions below. Each question makes explicit reference to one or several items from the reading list. Make sure to justify your reasoning by referring to the items from the reading list. At the seminar, each individual needs to have answers to each these questions available electronically or on paper.

### Questions

1. Are the research questions in the published thesis easy to find, clear and with a reasonable scope, as required by the *instructions for final thesis reports*?
2. How would you assess the introduction of the thesis based on the [grading rubric](https://www.ida.liu.se/~TDDD89/material/Grading_rubric_TDDD89_2017.pdf) (attributes Introduction, Organization and Language and form)?
3. Are there violations to the *Guidelines on plagiarism* in the report? For instance, is it clear that figures are created by the author, or used with express permission?

### Submissions

Upload your answers to the questions above in a Word file, a PDF or plain text in the collaborative workspace for your group and seminar (see the general description).

### Reading material

* Instructions for final thesis reports:
  + For theses conducted at the Computer and Information Science department (IDA): J. Åberg (2015). *Instructions for final thesis reports.* ([English](http://www.ida.liu.se/edu/ugrad/thesis/templates/Exjobb_instruction_150313.pdf), [Swedish](http://www.ida.liu.se/edu/ugrad/thesis/templates/Exjobb_anvisning_150313.pdf)).
  + For theses conducted at the Electrical Engineering Department (ISY):

J. Wikner (2015): Anvisningar för exjobbsrapport på ISY ([Swedish](http://www.isy.liu.se/edu/xjobb/documents/Exjobb_anvisningar.pdf)).

* The *introduction, background, theory and method* chapters of the published master's theses pertaining to your group.
* The [NoPlagiat plagiarism self-study guide](http://noplagiat.bibl.liu.se/default.en.asp) by the University Library @ LiU.
* [Advice on academic writing in English](https://old.liu.se/ikk/aes/tips-och-rad-angaende-skrivande?l=en&sc=true) from [Academic English Support](https://old.liu.se/ikk/aes?l=en) @ LiU
* The [grading rubric](http://www.ida.liu.se/~TDDD89/material/Grading_rubric_TDDD89_2017.pdf) used for peer review in the course.

### The seminar

You will compare your answers to each of the questions you were to submit before the seminar.