

University of Oulu  
Faculty of Humanities

## Prospectus 2009–2011

### Saami Culture

### Saami Culture

Coordinating unit:

Saami Culture is a subject offered by the Giellagas Institute.

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#### **Overview of the subject**

University of Oulu holds the national responsibility to develop the highest education and research on Saami language and culture. In 2004, Saami Language was complemented by another major subject, Saami Culture, which produces researchers, teachers and cultural professionals who have a profound knowledge of Saami culture. The contents of the subject are developed primarily to serve the Saami communities, which essentially includes the advancement of independent research. The aim is also to increase general awareness and understanding of Saami culture.

In addition to providing students with an understanding of the Saami cultural heritage, the subject familiarizes them with the Saami culture and society of today. The development of Saami culture is connected with the historical, social and juridical conditions of the Nordic countries and Russia. Saami culture is set in a larger context by examining it from the viewpoint of indigenous peoples, especially of the North, who share similar natural conditions, historical developments and claims for maintaining their traditional rights.

Completing both the Bachelor's and the Master's degrees requires approximately five years of study. In addition to offering students the possibility to become researchers or teachers, studies in Saami Culture prepare them for a range of cultural tasks in the Saami environment, not only in Finland but also in various international contexts in other Nordic countries and elsewhere. Cultural professionals are needed in Saami, municipal and state administration as well as in different kinds of events, organizations and projects in art and culture. A more general purpose of the subject is to create opportunities for developing an understanding of northern cultures and indigenous peoples and for promoting intercultural communication.

Suitable minor subjects include, for example, Saami Language, Cultural Anthropology, Sociology, Finnish and Scandinavian History, Archaeology and Cultural Geography at the University of Oulu or Environmental Law and International Relations at the University of Lapland. The degree also includes studies in the Saami language that aim at practical language skills.

### **Saami Culture as a minor subject**

Saami Culture is an optional minor subject, which is particularly suitable, for example, to students whose major subject is Cultural Anthropology, History or Saami Language. Basic studies in Saami Culture are a compulsory minor subject to students of Saami Language who aim to become teachers.

### **Admission requirements**

Anyone who wishes to study Saami Culture as a major subject must take an entrance examination that is held on a date announced by the institute. There are no prerequisites for students who wish to study Saami Culture as a minor subject.

### **Commencement of studies and studying**

Students must enrol in the university at the Students Affairs office. Students must inform the Faculty of Humanities office (HU391) or the Students Services office, as well as the Amanuensis of the Giellagas Institute (HU327) of any changes in their contact information.

The curriculum for studies in Saami Culture will be announced at the start of each term, and students may collect it from the amanuensis of the institute (HU327) (see also <http://www.oulu.fi/giellagas>). The notice board of the subject is used to inform students about information and feedback sessions and other important events.

Teaching is given in the form of lectures, book examinations, seminars and lessons. Students should begin their studies in Saami Culture by taking the introductory course. Examinations are held on the Faculty of Humanities examination dates and graded on a scale of 0/5-5/5 or pass/fail.

## **Examinations**

Signing up for all examinations takes place online through WebOodi [WebOodissa](#) at least 10 days before the examination date. Examinations organized by the Giellagas Institute can be taken on the faculty general examination dates or the I Subject Group examination dates. Examination dates are posted on the Faculty of Humanities web site. There is no separate sign-up for lecture exams, unless otherwise stated.

Completed courses are registered in the online record, which the student should check at least every six months. Examination answers are kept in the archive for six months after the results have been published.

## **Study counselling**

Students are advised on their studies by the amanuensis (tel. +358 (08) 553 3486), the lecturer (tel. +358 (08) 553 3491) and the professor (tel. (08) 553 3489). A list of examiners for each course is posted on the notice board of the subject.

## **Language and Communication Studies**

Bachelor's Degree:

Orientation Course for New Students 0 ECTS credits

Written and Oral Communication Skills 5 ECTS credit (Academic Communication 5 ECTS credits)

Second Official Language 5 ECTS credits

Foreign Language 5 ECTS credits

## **Mandatory Studies in Saami and Relating Language and Communication Studies**

Mandatory Minor Subjects:

Basic Studies in Saami Language 25 ECTS credits (*or 25 ECTS credits' worth of pick-and-choose studies in Saami Language*) for native speakers of Saami.

Saami as a Foreign Language 25 ECTS credits for non-native speakers of Saami.

*Basic studies (25 ECTS credits) or 25 ECTS credits of pick-and-choose study units in Saami Language* are a mandatory minor subject for those students of Saami Culture whose native language is Saami or who have a native speaker's command of the language, or who have completed the upper secondary school Saami as a Native Language syllabus or who speak Saami as a second language.

In addition to this, students taking the *Basic Studies in Saami Language* (25 ECTS credits) will complete the *Principles of Phonetics* course (3 ECTS credits). If the student completes the Subject Studies in Saami (35 ECTS credits) as well, the Language and Communication Studies also include the courses *Structures of Finnish* (3 ECTS credits) and *Basics of General Linguistics* (4 ECTS credits).

*The pick-and-choose package in Saami Language (25 ECTS credits)* can contain basic level courses from Saami Language and/or Saami as a Foreign Language subject studies level courses. The contents of the pick-and-choose package is agreed upon with the Saami language lecturer and compiled so that it meets the student's needs. If the student chooses to include the *Phonology* (5

ECTS credits) course in his/her Saami pick-and-choose package, s/he must also complete the *Principles of Phonetics* (3 ECTS credits) course, which is a part of the Saami Language compulsory Language and Communication Studies.

*Saami as a Foreign Language basic studies package (25 ECTS credits)* is a mandatory minor subject for those students who are studying Saami culture as their major subject and have a foreign language level proficiency in the Saami language. These studies do not include compulsory Language and Communication Studies.

The courses are organized by Saami Language.

### Study materials

There are only a few textbooks and thematic compilations available especially on modern Saami culture and the majority of significant research findings have been published as articles in different journals. Therefore the Saami Culture course materials are mainly compiled into “article folders”. Information on the folders and other literature is published in the subject autumn and spring term information leaflets.

### Course structure

Bachelor’s Degree comprises 180 ECTS credits.

This includes the basic studies in the major subject (25 ECTS credits), subject studies in the major subject (45 ECTS credits) and mandatory minor subject studies in Saami Language (25 ECTS credits). In addition to this, the degree contains mandatory Language and Communication Studies (15 ECTS credits and the required amount of other (minor subject) studies.

The Master's degree is composed of 120 study points. It includes at least 80 sp in the major subject.

Prehistory and history	Saami society and Saami cultural environment	World views, changing identities and Passing the cultural heritage	Interculturality and Optional/alternative studies	Research	Total 150 SP
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Prehistory of the Saami regions and history of the Saami people 4 sp	The Saami society and its rights 4 sp Traditional means of livelihood and material culture 3 sp	World views and art of the Saami people 5 sp	Introduction to Saami culture 3 sp Indigenous peoples and northern cultures 3 sp	Introduction to research on Saami 3 sp	BASIC STUDIES 25 SP
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Special issues in the Saami past 5 sp	Saami people in the modern society 6 sp  Saami cultural environment 6 sp	Changing images of Saami 5 sp  Passing traditional knowledge and skills 6 sp	Ethnic relations and international co-operation 4 sp  Optional/ alternative studies or work practice 3-10 sp	Methods and current trends in research on Saami 3 sp  Bachelor's thesis 10 sp	INTERMEDIATE STUDIES 45 SP
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Focus on special themes 10 sp				Survey of theories and methods 12 sp	ADVANCED STUDIES 80 SP
			Optional courses and/or work practice 10 sp	Thesis seminar 8 sp  Master's thesis 40 sp	

## Course descriptions

### Basic studies in Saami Culture 25 sp

Contents and objectives: After the student has completed the basic studies, s/he has gained a general knowledge of the main features of the Saami culture and its historical and regional variations. The studies consist of seven modules in which the students are familiarized with issues relating to e.g. history, livelihood, society, folklore and native cultures, as well as the practical process of doing research. The studies are based on lectures supported by the required reading, article folders and different practice works.

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683371P
title	Introduction to Saami culture
extent	3 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> year, autumn term
objective	The student can describe the regional and cultural main features of Saami culture and has an overview of the multiplicity of the Saami culture.
content	Students will be introduced to regional, linguistic and cultural variation from the viewpoints of different disciplines and research traditions.
working methods	Lectures
target group	first-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination
grading	1-5/fail
responsible person	Lecturer

other information	
language of instruction	Finnish

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683372P
title	Prehistory of the Saami regions and history of the Saami people
extent	4 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> year, autumn term
objective	To acquaint students with the prehistory of the Saami regions and developments in the history of the Saami people.
content	Students will be introduced to the basic archaeological and historical facts and understandings about the origin of the Saami people, the development of their society and means of livelihood and their role as "makers of their own history".
working methods	Lectures
target group	first-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683373P
title	Traditional means of livelihood and material culture
extent	3 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> year, spring term
objective	To acquaint students with the development of Saami culture in relation to the environment.
content	Familiarizing oneself with the concept of Saami cultural environment, the traditional livelihood of the Saami people and the material cultural heritage.
working methods	Lectures and independent study of literature
target group	first-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683374P
title	The Saami society and its rights
extent	4 sp

timing	1 <sup>st</sup> year, autumn term
objective	The student is familiar with the modern Saami society and is able to describe the societal status of the Saami people in different nation states.
content	Students will gain an understanding of the social activities and institutions of the Saami people as they have developed through history. The legal status of the Saami people in the Nordic countries and Russia will also be introduced.
working methods	Lectures and independent study of literature
target group	first-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683394P
title	World views and art of the Saami people
extent	5 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> year, spring term
objective	The student is familiar with the central traditions of the Saami spiritual culture and the present-day Saami world view and art.
content	Students will be introduced to the bases of Saami worldviews, from "shamanism" to narrative and yoik traditions. They will be provided with an overview of the starting points and diversity of modern literature, visual arts, cinema and theatre.
working methods	Lectures and independent study of literature and art
target group	first-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder and art
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683395P
title	Indigenous peoples and northern cultures
extent	3 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> year, spring term
objective	The student can describe and explain the construction process of a native community and knows the cultures of the northern peoples.
content	The concept of indigenous people and the meaning that it holds internationally will be introduced, and students will acquaint themselves with the past and present of northern

	peoples in particular.
working methods	Lectures and independent study of literature
target group	first-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683377P
title	Introduction to research on Saami
extent	3 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> year, spring term
objective	The student can describe and define central fields of Saami research and familiarizes himself/herself to the principles of doing research.
content	Students will be introduced to the history, organizations and current themes of research on Saami as well as to research work in practice.
working methods	Lectures and lessons; independent study of literature
target group	first-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish

### **Intermediate studies in Saami Culture 45 sp**

Contents and objectives: After completing the subject studies, the student will have gained in-depth general knowledge of the Saami culture and the cultures of native peoples. The student is also able to write, present and argue academically. In addition this, the student is able to use source material and apply different methods into practical research work, and analyze research data.

When moving on to subject studies, the focus will shift more to research and methodology, because the subject studies include both theoretical studies and the Candidate's Seminar and Thesis. Some optional courses are included in the subject studies. The student can use the optional courses to expand his/her knowledge on a special field of interest through e.g. literature (agreed upon separately) or gain practical know-how through work practice. The main objective of the subject studies is to complete the Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities.

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683396A
title	Special issues in the Saami past

extent	5 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> year, autumn term
objective	The students are familiar with issues regarding the history of the Saami people from the points of view of history and archeology, and are able to critically assess the images of the history of the Saami people presented by different sources.
content	Students will familiarize themselves with special issues and themes in historical research concerning the Saami people, such as the political history of the Saami people and the recent history of the Saami people in Finland.
working methods	Lectures
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami culture
course code	683397A
title	Saami cultural environment
extent	6 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student is able to describe and analyze the different aspects of the Saami cultural environment.
content	Students will familiarize themselves with the means of livelihood in the Saami regions and the relations between the different means as well as with the rights to and understandings about the use of the natural environment. In addition to the tangible, the intangible cultural heritage will be considered, from place names to stories.
working methods	Lectures and independent study of literature
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder and additional material
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683398A
title	Saami people in the modern society
extent	6 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student is familiar with the development and activities of the modern Saami society and is able to examine the status of the Saami people, as well as individual Saami people, in the Nordic countries and in Russia.
content	Students will familiarize themselves in more detail with the activities and future

	challenges of individual representatives, communities and organizations of the Saami society. Additionally, students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of the forms and significance of Saami social institutions in the modern society.
working methods	Lectures (and possible visits/excursions)
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder and additional material
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683399A
title	Passing traditional knowledge and skills
extent	6 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student knows and is able to analyze the change and communication processes of cultural heritage and understands and is able to interpret the different meanings of cultural heritage in the present-day society.
content	Students will examine the religious history of the Saami people, changes in different traditions, passing of traditional knowledge and skills as well as the use and significance of cultural heritage today and in the future.
working methods	Lectures and lessons
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder and additional material
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683500A
title	Changing images of Saami
extent	5 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student can analyze and interpret the changing depictions of the Saami people and related practices.
content	Students will familiarize themselves with the historically and socially changing representations of the Saami people and with the ways in which the Saami people construct their "identity politics" and discourses, e.g. in modern art and media.
working methods	Lectures and lessons
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder and additional material

assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683501A
title	Ethnic relations and international co-operation
extent	4 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student can describe, explain and analyze the dynamics of ethnic relationships in national and international environments.
content	Students will familiarize themselves with ethnic relations in the Saami region and deepen their knowledge of the international roles of and co-operation between indigenous peoples around the world and especially in the Arctic.
working methods	Lectures and lessons
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder and additional material
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683502A
title	Methods and current trends in research on Saami
extent	3 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student can compare and evaluate the principles, research questions and methods of producing information as regards multidisciplinary Saami research.
content	Students will be introduced to multidisciplinary research on Saami and ways of gathering information on the basis of different kinds of data.
working methods	Lectures and lessons
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder and additional material
assessment methods	Lecture-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor and lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683392A
title	Optional studies or work practice
extent	3–10 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student is able to search for information and is able to conduct an in-depth study of a special field or theme with the help of agreed-upon literature, other material or practical work.
content	To be agreed on
working methods	To be agreed on
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	To be agreed on
assessment methods	To be agreed on
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	
other information	Professor and/or lecturer
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683384A
title	Bachelor's thesis
extent	10 sp
timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student is able to write academic text and present and defend it orally. In addition to this, s/he is able to use source material and apply different methods into practical research and analyze research data.
content	Students will be guided into carrying out research and producing academic texts.
working methods	Bachelor's seminar, lectures and lessons
target group	second- or third-year students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/article folder and additional material
assessment methods	Students will participate in the Bachelor's seminar and work independently to complete their thesis. Lecture- and lesson-based examination or learning journal; book examination/essay.
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor and lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683390A
title	Maturity Exam
extent	0 ECTS credits
timing	3 <sup>rd</sup> year
objective	The student is able to write an essay on his/her thesis topic that is acceptable both in form and content and linguistically correct.
content	

working methods	The maturity exam for the Bachelor's Degree is written in an exam on a faculty exam date.
target group	Saami Culture major subject students
links to other courses	Candidate's Thesis must be completed.
study materials	
assessment methods	Written examination.
grading	Pass/fail
responsible person	Professor and lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

### **Advanced studies in Saami Culture 80 sp**

Contents and objectives: After completing the Advanced Studies, the student has an in-depth overview of the Saami culture and the changes thereof, as well as the development of Saami society in the Nordic Countries and in Russia. The student is able to describe, analyze and evaluate Saami culture more broadly especially from the point of view of northern native peoples. In addition to this, the student has scientific and practical know-how for doing research and s/he is able to apply the scientific information of his/her field into practice when working in an expert position, for instance.

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683385S
title	Focus on special themes
extent	10 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> year of graduate studies
objective	The student can familiarize himself/herself independently with literature related to the topic of his/her Master's Thesis and its themes. In addition to this, s/he is able to assess the relevancy of source material to his/her topic.
content	During the course, students will acquaint themselves with the subject matter, theme and previous research of their own Master's thesis by studying selected readings.
working methods	Independent work and study of literature
target group	first-year graduate students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings/additional material
assessment methods	Book examination. After they have taken the examination, students will prepare an essay in which they discuss their own research problem, connecting it with a theoretical framework and wider field of research.
grading	1-5/fail
responsible person	Professor and/or lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683386S
title	Survey of theories and methods

extent	12 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of graduate studies
objective	The student can explain and apply theories and theoretical starting points and different research methods relating to Saami research and his/her own thesis to practice.
content	Students will familiarize themselves in detail with different theories and methods relating to Saami culture and the study thereof.
working methods	Lectures, exercises, etc.
target group	First- or second-year graduate students
prerequisites	
study materials	Readings
assessment methods	Book examination/essay; exercise; other assessment methods to be agreed on
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor and/or lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683387S
title	Seminar
extent	8 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of graduate studies
objective	The student is able to plan and conduct research and is able to argue his/her point of view academically both in writing and orally.
content	Students will participate in the advanced studies seminar that will last at least for two months (students must attend at least 4/5 of the meetings).
working methods	Seminar work
target group	First- or second-year graduate students
prerequisites	
study materials	
assessment methods	In the seminar, students will practice doing research by composing a research plan, preparing a seminar presentation and producing a thesis manuscript that only requires a final revision. During the seminar, students will act as an opponent to a fellow student and write an essay or a summary on the topic of their own thesis.
grading	1–5/fail
responsible person	Professor and/or lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683388S
title	Master's thesis
extent	40 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of graduate studies
objective	The student is able to apply different theories and research methods to practice. When writing the thesis, the student has assumed a scientific mindset and is able to acquire information critically and is fluent in scientific communication.
content	Students will write an independent academic thesis that is primarily based on their own

	research and that applies a theoretical framework to data on Saami culture.
working methods	Independent work (guided by thesis supervisor)
target group	First- or second-year graduate students
prerequisites	
study materials	
assessment methods	Writing a Master's thesis and submitting two bound copies to the Faculty of Humanities, attending Thesis seminar.
grading	approbatur, lubenter approbatur, non sine laude approbatur, cum laude approbatur, magna cum laude approbatur, eximia cum laude approbatur, laudatur
responsible person	Professor and/or lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	682289S
title	Optional courses and/or work practice
extent	10 sp
timing	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of graduate studies
objective	The student can search for information and gain skills relating to a special field in Saami culture and analyze, interpret and comment upon these.
content	Students will spend a period of work practice in a relevant place of employment and/or take optional courses according to their own interests within the field of Saami culture.
working methods	Lectures and lessons, independent work and study of literature
target group	First- or second-year graduate students
prerequisites	
study materials	
assessment methods	To be agreed on
grading	1–5; pass/fail
responsible person	Lecturer
other information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English

subject	Saami Culture
course code	683391S
title	Maturity Examination
extent	0 ECTS credits
timing	5. year
objectives	The student is able to write an abstract of his/her thesis that is linguistically correct and acceptable in content.
content	
working methods	The student will write an abstract of one page in length of his/her Master's Thesis.
target group	Saami Culture major subject students
links to other courses	Master's Thesis must be completed.
study materials	
assessment methods	Writing an abstract.
grading	Pass/fail

responsible person	Professor
additional information	
language of instruction	Finnish/Saami/English