

Sensorveiledning MEVIT3350/MEVIT4450 – Media and Politics

The course introduces key theoretical approaches to the study of the increasing hybridisation of media and politics, and places current trends in an historical and comparative perspective. Key topics include media-state-relations, election campaigns, social media activism and performances of politicians. A specific emphasis is placed on how citizens and social movements use media in political struggles.

We expect the students to be able to:

- *analyze the relationship between media and politics in different settings and from different perspectives.*
- *in-depth understanding of how and why media structures, media production and media consumption are changing, and how these media developments change political communication.*

The lectures have mainly been covering topics related to political journalism and election campaigns in a hybrid media system and discussed different aspects of activism in social media. The courses have mainly been linked to the term paper. Each student has presented their idea for their term paper and their method and theory that they are planning to use and got feedback on this from other students in the course.

We expect the students on a master level to have more sophisticated understandings compared to the bachelor student in how to integrate theory in to the term paper and to present a more rigid methodological framework. We also expect master students to discuss limitations of their term paper in terms of validity and reliability.

The term paper to be evaluated are expected to follow the following structure:

It should not be more than ten pages (this will not include the references that can come in addition), and the paper should show that the student has an in-depth understanding on the relationship between media and politics and how these structures are changing.

Theme or area of interest: How are the student explaining the theme: Why is this important? Societal importance? Theoretical and scientific importance?

Research questions and/or hypotheses: How are the student relating and motivating her/his RQs to the literature review, for example to what is missing in existing research on the topic? Students with an A will typically have clear research question.

Theoretical or scientific context: The term paper should be evaluated based on how the student enable to place the topic in an academic field/area in media studies (see also the students include the reading literature in MEVIT3350/MEVIT4450. The student should enable to discuss/show what do we not know, what is contested and debated in the academic literature. Student with an A have clear theoretical framework that suites the RQ.

Methods and information about empirical data: What methods are the student using? Are they relevant to answer RQ? Is her/he describing the planned research process - data collection, how they

select sample, collect data, analyse data etc? Students with an A are using a method that are clearly responding to their research question.

Results: Do they have an objective description of the findings? Students with an A are typically presenting their results in a clear and structured way.

Discussion: Do the student show that he/her can discuss the results in line with the relevant theory and the literature review. Do she/he discuss the difficulties and weaknesses in their research? Students with an A do highlight their contributions of their findings related to other studies and theory.

Research ethics: Do the data and topic in the term paper include a topic that needs discussion about any research ethics?

Conclusion: Do the student have any conclusion? Did she/he respond to their own research question?

References: Are references to the literature relevant? Are they using literature relevant for in MEVIT3350/MEVIT4450?